

Bring May Flowers! 5 Gardening Tips



1. Bring a shovel and get nutrient-rich compost at SOCRRA available for member communities/projects
2. Consider companion planting to add nutrients, shade and attract pollinators.
3. Purchase or make your own rain barrel to save natural resources during dry spells.
4. Consult the MSU Extension for gardening tips.
5. Use organic pesticides to decrease runoff contamination.

Time to Get in the Garden!

It's time to plan to plant! Kick start your ornamentals or edibles with healthy soil. Soil fertility is essential for the gardening gains. A simple way to see if your soil is ready for planting: grab a handful of soil and squeeze it. If the soil falls out in pieces, it is dry enough to dig. If it stays in a mud ball, it is too wet. Remove weeds, rocks and trash. Then add 8-12 inches of compost.

SOCRRA's Got Compost!

More than 17,000 cubic yards of compost are produced by SOCRRA each year. Leaves, grass clippings, woodchips, other yard waste and food scraps are collected from SOCRRA communities and delivered to the Rochester Hills compost site. It is mixed and shredded, achieving a 2:1 ratio of leaves to grass clippings/food scraps. The mix is placed in windrows (long piles) and turned periodically to allow aeration and natural moisture addition. After decomposition, the compost is screened to remove sticks, stones and other debris. The screened compost is then stockpiled for curing.



How Do I Get Compost?

Compost is made available to residents of SOCRRA communities (and Rochester Hills) in the following ways:

1) Residents of SOCRRA communities (and Rochester Hills) can shovel their own compost at the compost site for FREE. It is available at the SOCRRA compost site at 1741 School Road in Rochester Hills.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm (MAY AND JUNE ONLY)

2) Some communities have compost available for residents at their Department of Public Works yard. Call your city's DPW for availability and hours.

Happy planting!

***Remember, your community PAYS for trash,
but EARNS rebates for recycling.***