

HORT 246 - Compost Production and Use

Number of credits: 1 Credit

Fall Semester 2019

Pre-/Co-requisites: None

Course Description: A study of basic principles of composting based upon a naturally occurring process of decay. This course includes the composting process, methods to assure safe use of materials, proper mixing procedures and a brief introduction to vermiculture. The course activity involves making of a compost pile and a returning a week later to examine the results.

Objectives:

1. To learn the basic principles of composting.
2. Be able to explain the difference between commercial fertilizers and compost.
3. To describe the benefits of composting.
4. To build a compost pile using methods learned.
5. To properly blend compost based on plant nutrient requirements.

Instructor: Amy Koehler

Office: Molberg 27

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 701-228-5605

Email: amy.koehler@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule: Tu 8:00am-9:50am

Textbook(s):

Compost Production and Utilization: A Growers' Guide by Mark Van Horn

On-Farm Composting Handbook by Author Robert Rynk

(PDF downloads will be provided to the students by the instructor)

Other related reading material will be provided by the instructor throughout the course.

Course Requirements:

Class participation (20pts per class)

Weekly quizzes (50 pts each)

Final lab project (200 pts)

Final Exam (150 pts)

Grading:

Grading is based on a standard college curve, where students earn a grade based upon the percent of total possible points they obtain. Any missed exam or assignment not made up within the allotted time will be given a zero. The "allotted time" given is at the discretion of the instructor and will be communicated to the students throughout the course. (Note: It is the responsibility of the student to schedule make-up work with the instructor at a time convenient to both parties.) Final letter grades are assigned based on the following criteria:

A = 90-100% of the total points

B = 80-90% of the total points

C = 70-80% of the total points

D = 60-70% of the total points

F = <60% of the total points

***The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and course requirements at any time.**

Tentative Course Outline:	Hours
- Introduction to composting	(0.5)
- Speaker – Expert in Field	(2.0)
- Benefits of Composting	(1.0)
- Types of Material for composting	(1.0)
- 3 Phases of the Compost Process	(0.5)
- Compost Pile Management	(1.0)
- Methods of Composting	(1.0)
- Vermiculture	(1.5)
- Mixing Compost and Soil	(0.5)
- Hands on experience	(6.0)
- Exam	(1.0)
- TOTAL	(16.0)

Relationship to Campus Theme: All aspects of horticulture develop an appreciation for nature and the materials that Mother Nature and technology have provided for us. Because of this we are able to make the world a more beautiful place.

Classroom Policies: Show respect to all living things!!!

Student Email Policy: Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to excel to the best of their ability. Students must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Dishonesty in the classroom or laboratory and with assignments, quizzes and exams is a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and college administration. For more information, refer to the student handbook.

Plagiarism: The strength Dakota College at Bottineau depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were your own. Here are three reasons not to do it:

- By far the deepest consequence to plagiarizing is the detriment to your intellectual and moral development: you won't learn anything, and your ethics will be corrupted.
- Giving credit where it's due but adding your own reflection will get you higher grades than putting your name on someone else's work. In an academic context, it counts more to show your ideas in conversation than to try to present them as *sui generis*.
- This means absolutely not cut and pasting directly into your assignment from other sources. I want everything is your own words!
- Finally, all students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Students must complete all work themselves. Cheating or plagiarism is a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and the college administration. Please be sure to review the **Student Handbook**. The consequences of plagiarism in this class depend on the level exhibited, but are at a minimum a failing grade on the assignment up to failing the class.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact your instructor and the Learning Center (701-228-5479) as early as possible during the beginning of the semester.

Title IX:

Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the college as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available.

DCB has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The College strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the College Title IX Coordinator.

Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources on the Title IX website. www.dakotacollege.edu/student-life/safety/title-ix