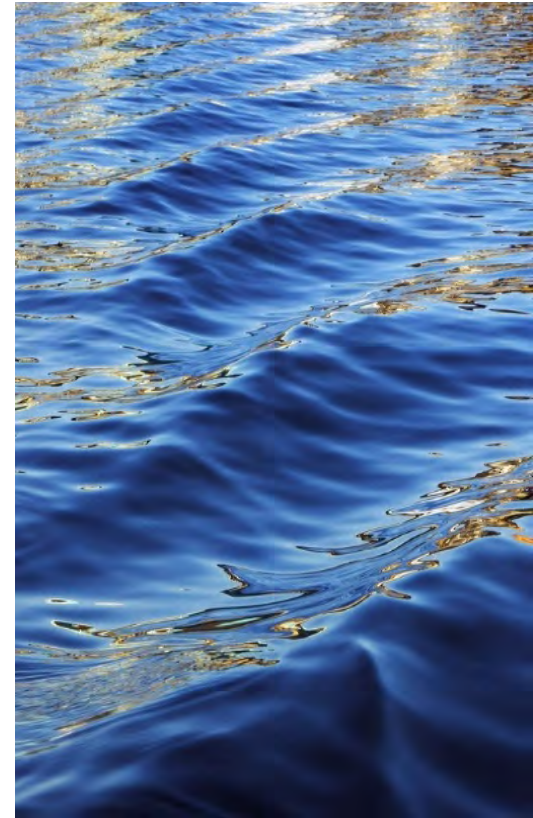


# The Composting Industry Status report

Cary Oshins  
USCC Associate Director  
CCREF Education Director



**US** Composting  
Council



## Vision Statement

We believe compost manufacturing and compost utilization are central to creating healthy soils, clean air and water, a stable climate, and a sustainable society.



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Research &  
Education Foundation

**Established 1990**

The US Composting Council is a trade and professional association advancing compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment.

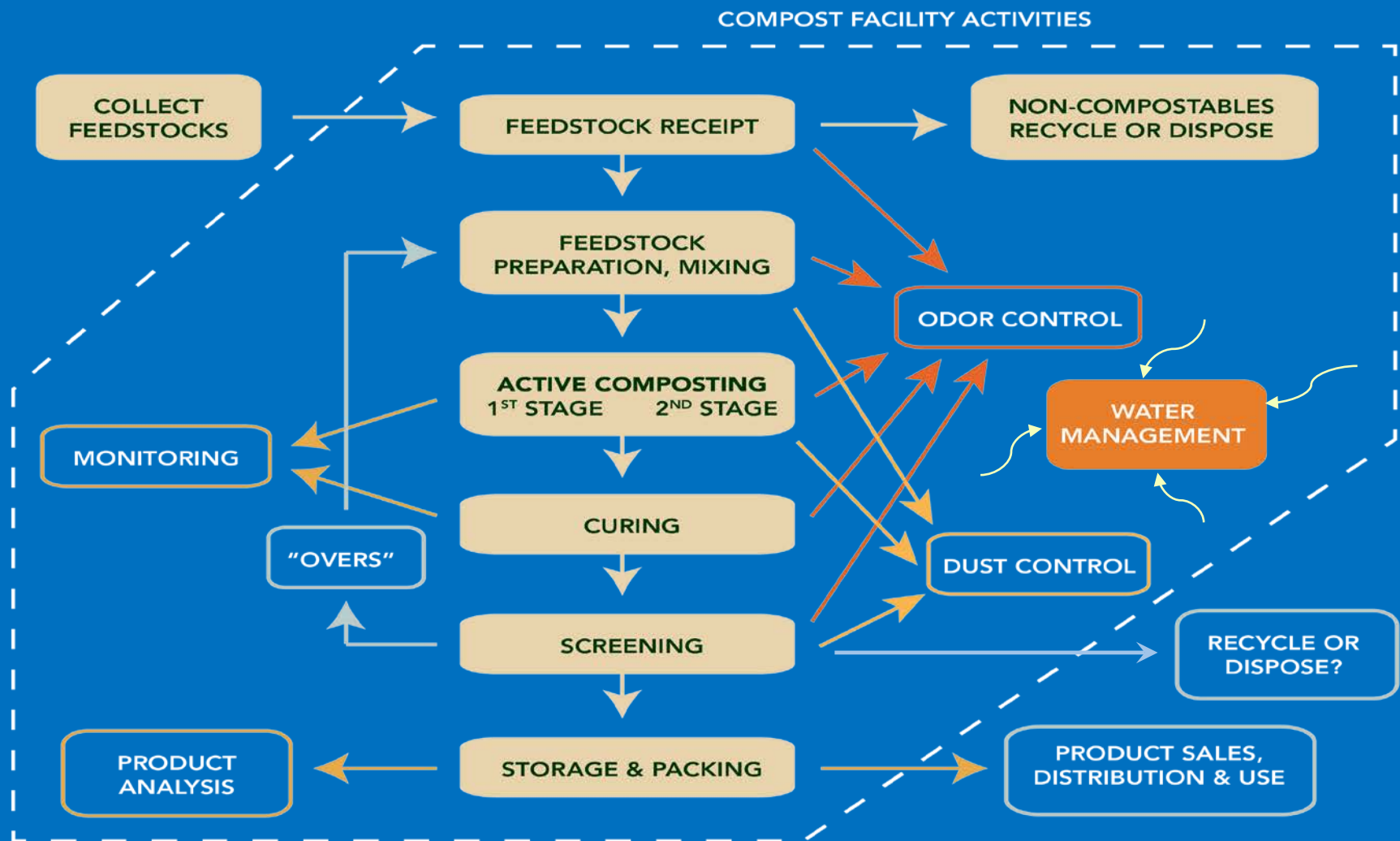
**Compost: Nature's Way To Grow!**



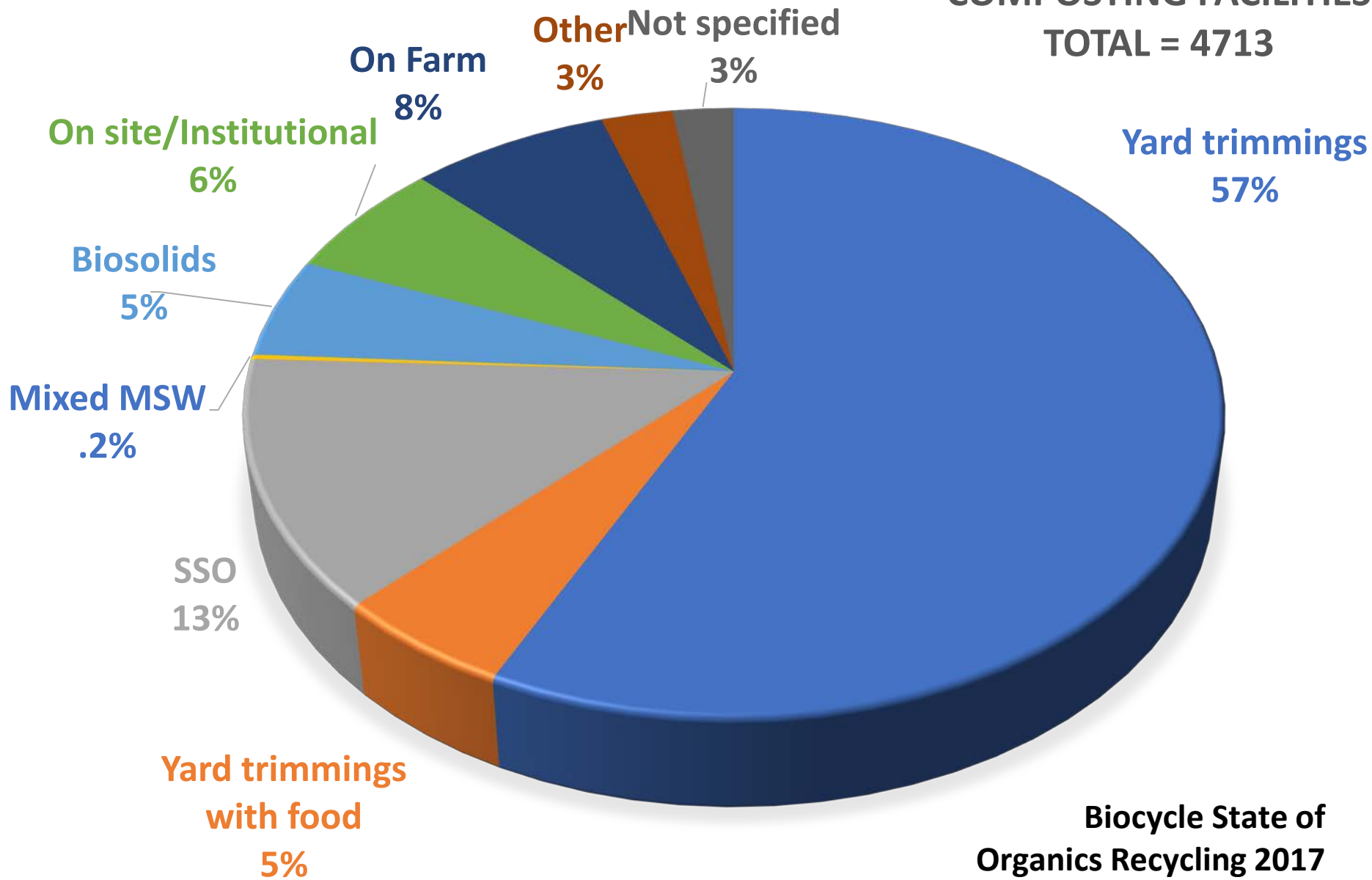
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# The Compost Manufacturing Industry

## Who are we?



**COMPOSTING FACILITIES  
TOTAL = 4713**



# What do these sites look like?

- All shapes and sizes – from unmanaged piles to a \$100 million facility
- Typically an adjunct to another business
- Vast majority are under 20,000 tons
- Majority are windrow or less (piles)



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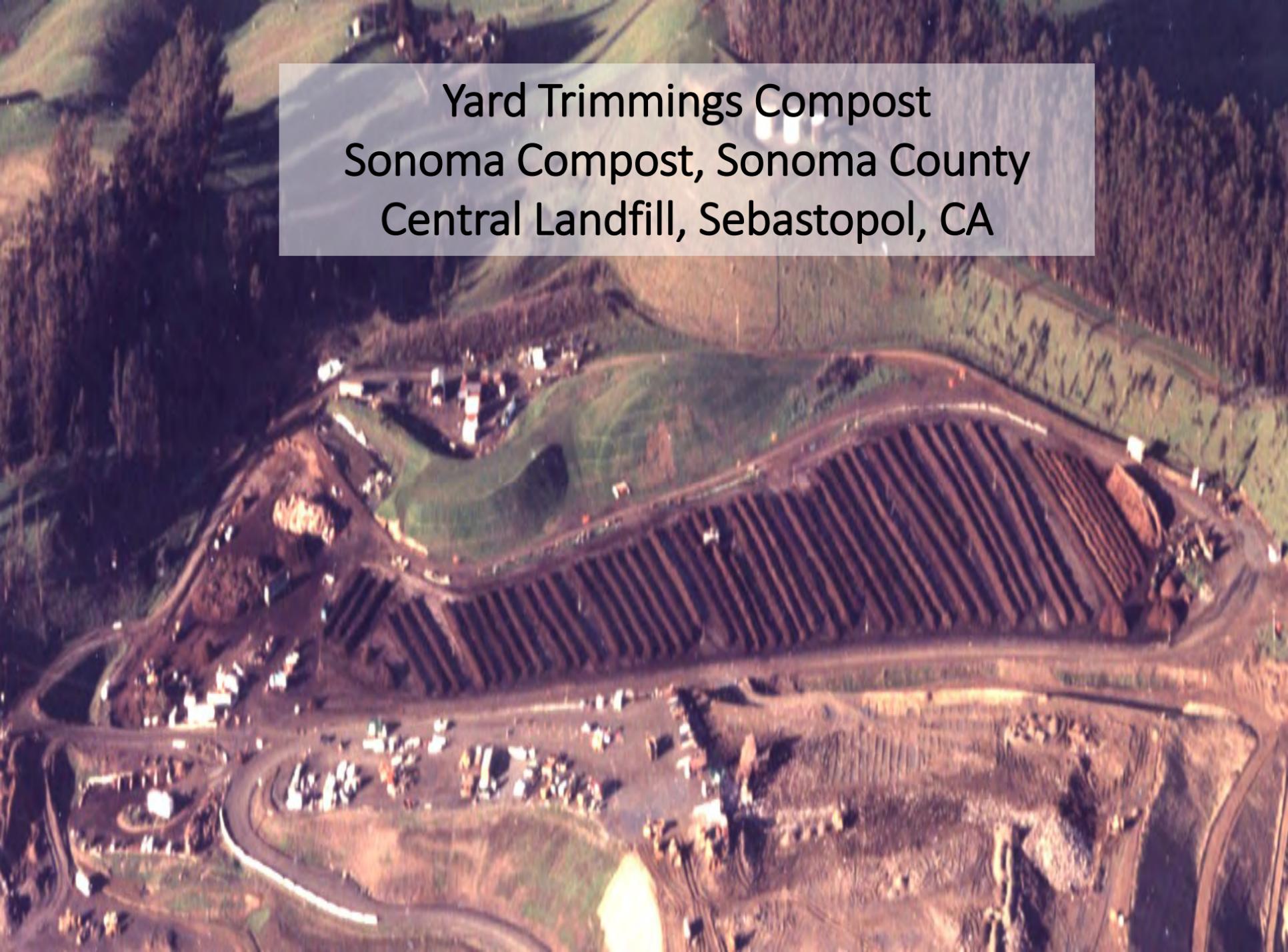
Yard Trimmings Compost,  
Prince George's County, Maryland

# Organic Dairy Manure and Organic Almond Prunings, Burroughs Family Farm, Denair, CA



# Yard Trimmings, Evergreen Nursery, San Diego, CA





Yard Trimmings Compost  
Sonoma Compost, Sonoma County  
Central Landfill, Sebastopol, CA

# Yard Trimmings and Mixed Organics Z-Best Composting Facility, Gilroy, CA



**Manure + Food + Yard  
Trimmings + Vegetation  
2 Particular Acres, PA**





**Increased throughput 6x on  
same footprint**



**Food scraps, Horse manure, yard  
trim, Mohican Farm,  
Cooperstown, New York**





Aerated Static Pile,  
Chittenden Solid Waste District, Vermont

# Yard Trimmings/Food Scraps Compost, OCRRA, New York



# Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps Compost Cedar Grove Composting Facility, Everett Washington



# Biosolids Composting, Philadelphia, PA





Curing

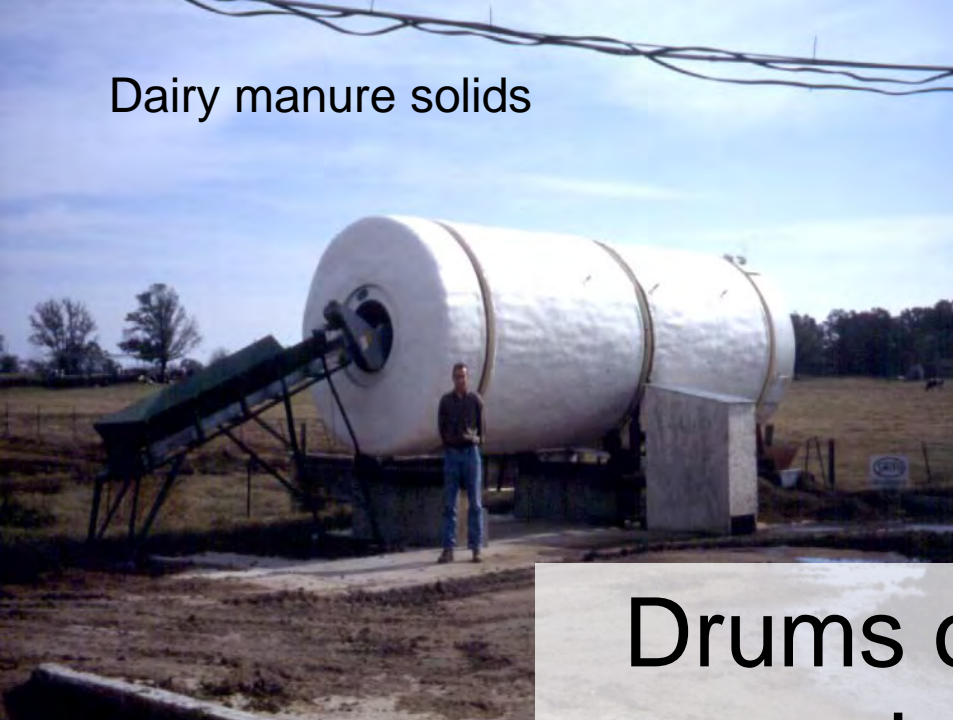
Composting

Biofilter

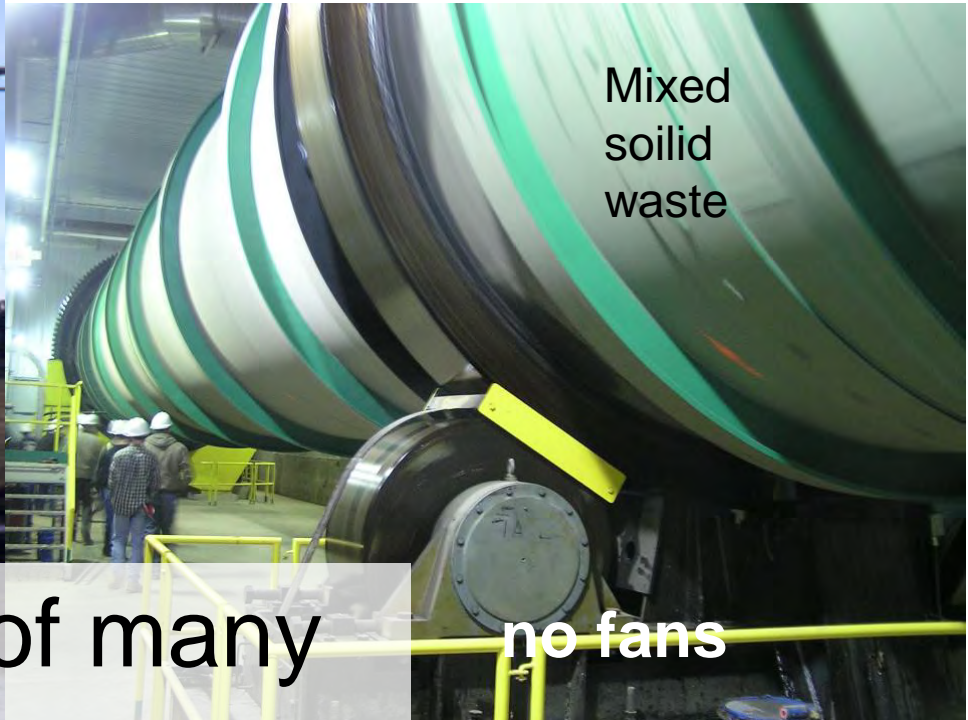
Receiving



Dairy manure solids



Mixed  
soild  
waste



Drums of many  
sizes

no fans

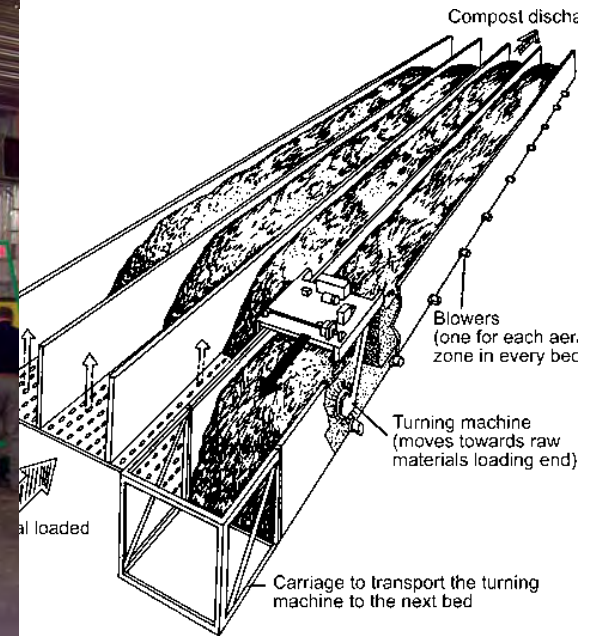


Food scraps

fan



Fish + vegetables



# Trenches and Agitated Beds

# Organics from MSW, Gallatin, MT



Are we  
growing?

## Hard to tell

- Numbers? Tons? Jobs? Dollars?
- Biocycle Surveys?
- USCC Membership?

## One personal indicator:

- USCC Annual Conference





# COMPOST 2020

USCC Conference & Tradeshow

JANUARY 28-31, 2020  
CHARLESTON, SC

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR



**ORGANICS  
RECOVERY**



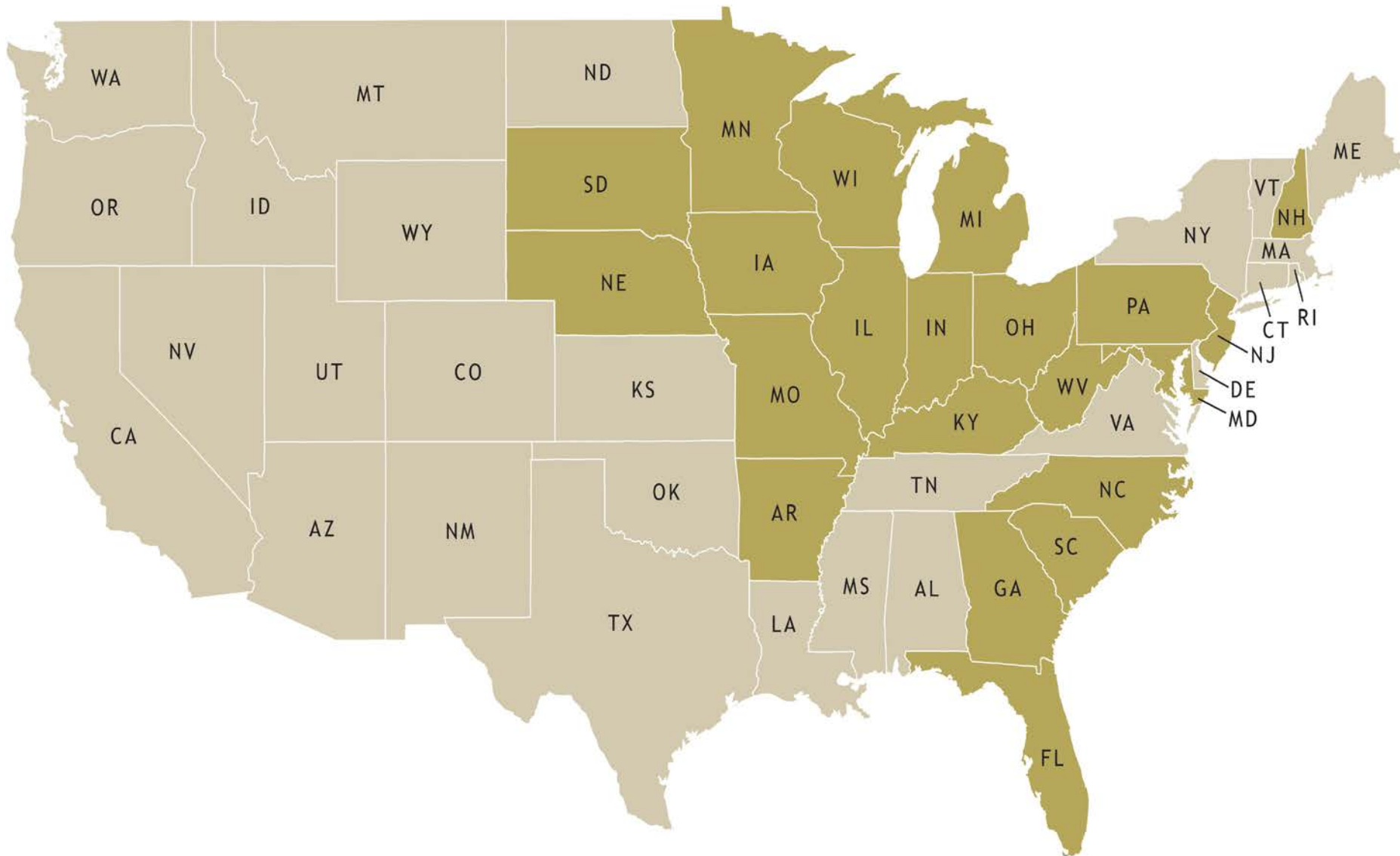
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# Drivers for Growth

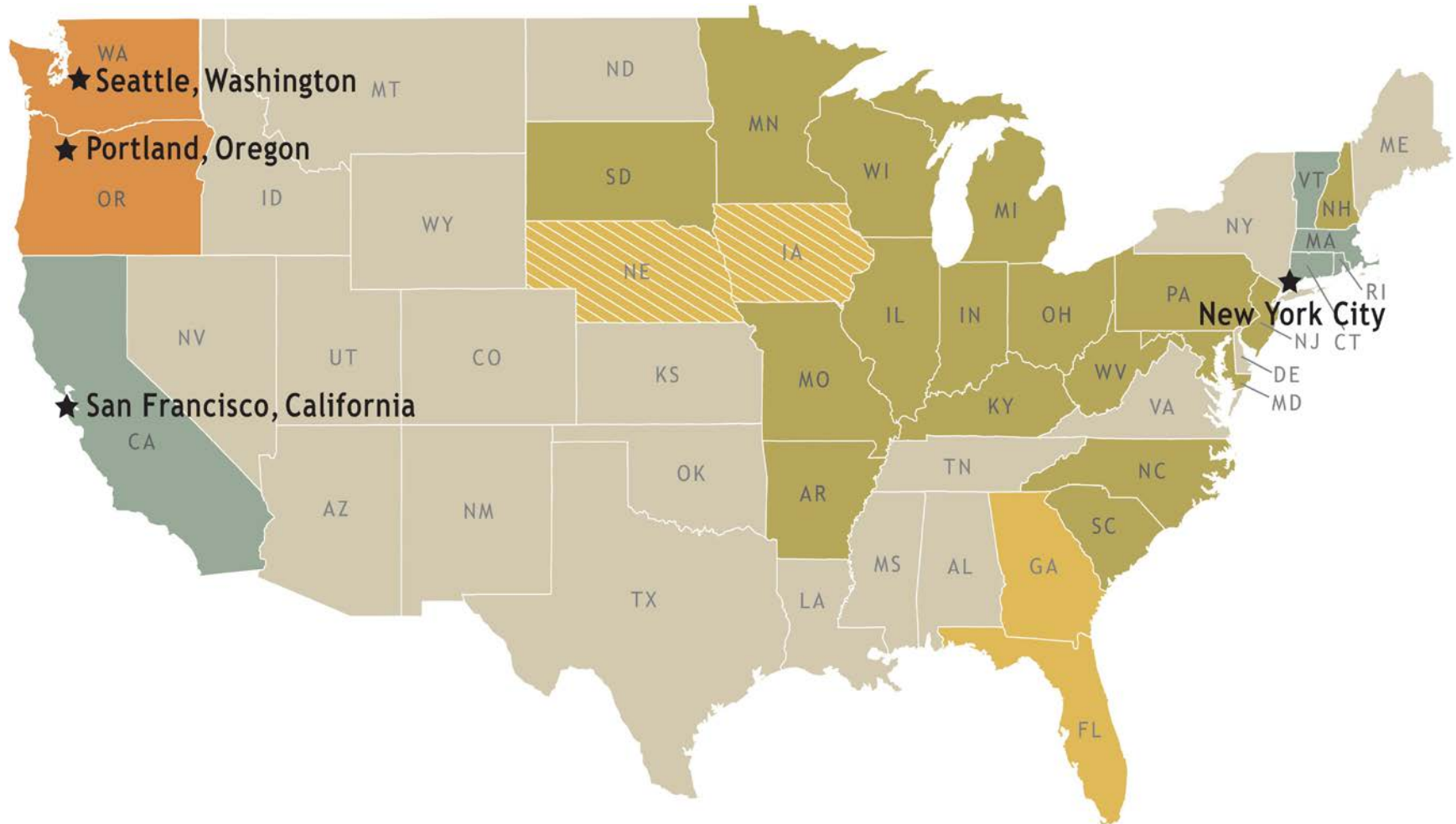
- Consumer Demand
  - Climate Change
- Anti-Waste Movement
  - Community Composters
- State and local policies
  - Organics bans, collection mandates, development incentives
- Product markets
  - Soil amendments, blends
  - Traditional and emerging markets



# Landfill Bans on Yard Trimmings



# Mandatory Organics Collection



# Drivers for Growth

- Consumer Demand
  - Climate Change
- Anti-Waste Movement
  - Community Composters
- State and local policies
  - Organics bans, collection mandates, development incentives
- Product markets
  - Soil amendments, blends
  - Traditional and emerging markets



# Compost Uses

- Landscaping and home horticulture
- Turf management
- Commercial horticulture
- Agriculture
- Stormwater management and green building applications
- Environmental remediation

Nature's Way to Grow!



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Rain garden



Bioinfiltration swale



Constructed wetland

# Obstacles to Growth

- Costs
- Siting and zoning
- Permitting and compliance
- Contamination
- Education



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Grinding



Food Receiving  
Building

OFFICE

SCALE

# Obstacles to Growth

- Costs
- Siting and zoning
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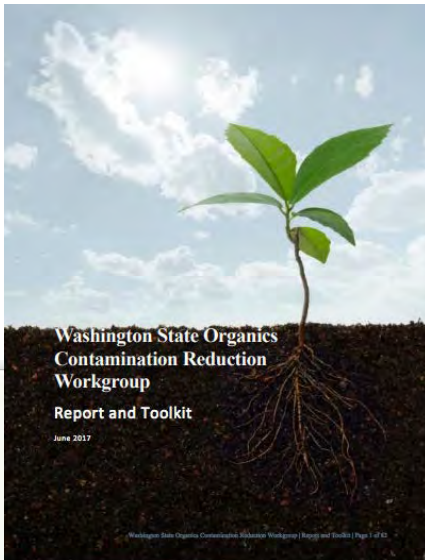


Contamination of  
Feedstocks-Physical

---

# Physical Contamination

- No feedstock stream is “pure”
- Food waste is worse than most
  - Come-alongs
  - Consumer or employee education
  - Increases costs/decreases quality



<https://www.compostwashington.org/ocrw/>



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# Contamination Reduction

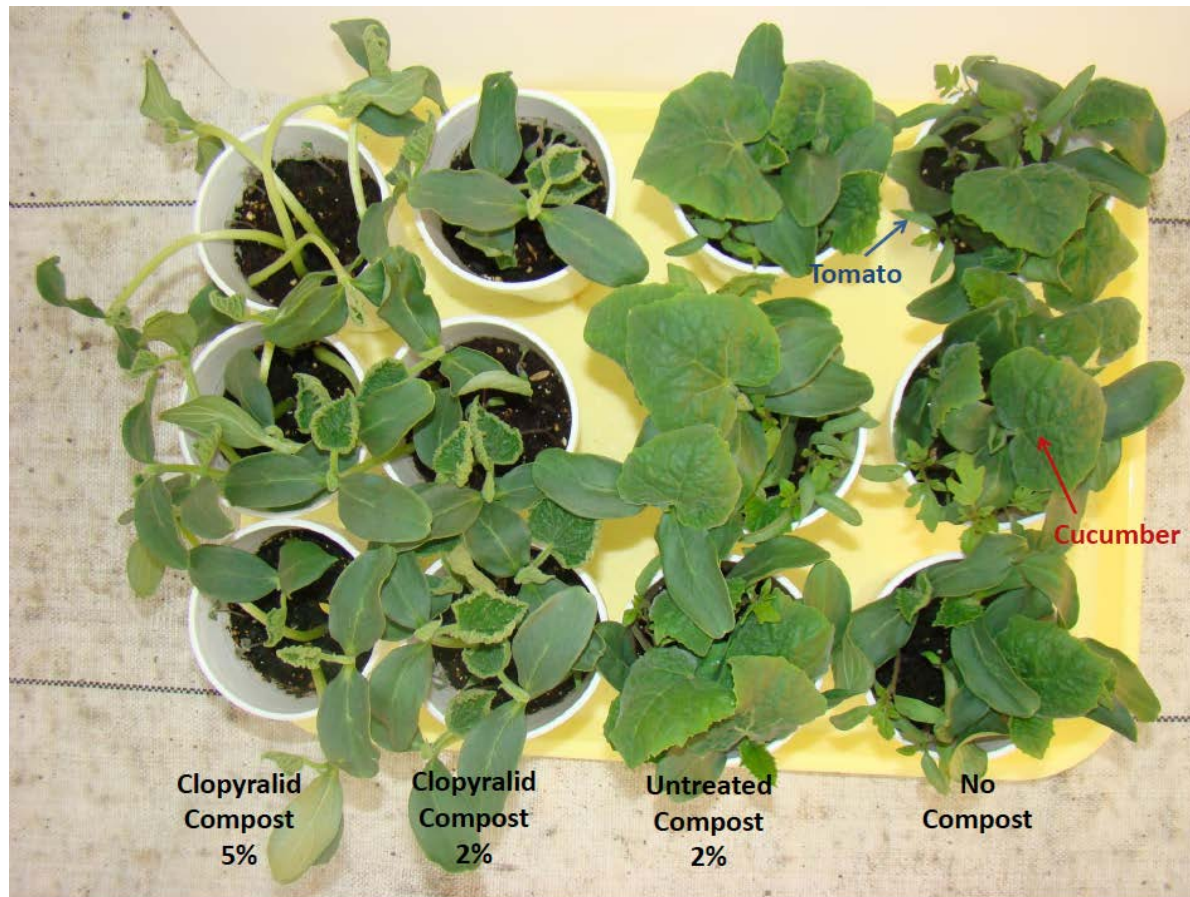
- Engage all stakeholders
- More outreach on source separation at collection points
- Improved methods of identifying compostable products
- Improved mechanical sorting prior to composting
- Improved screening post process



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# Feedstock Issues: Herbicide Contamination



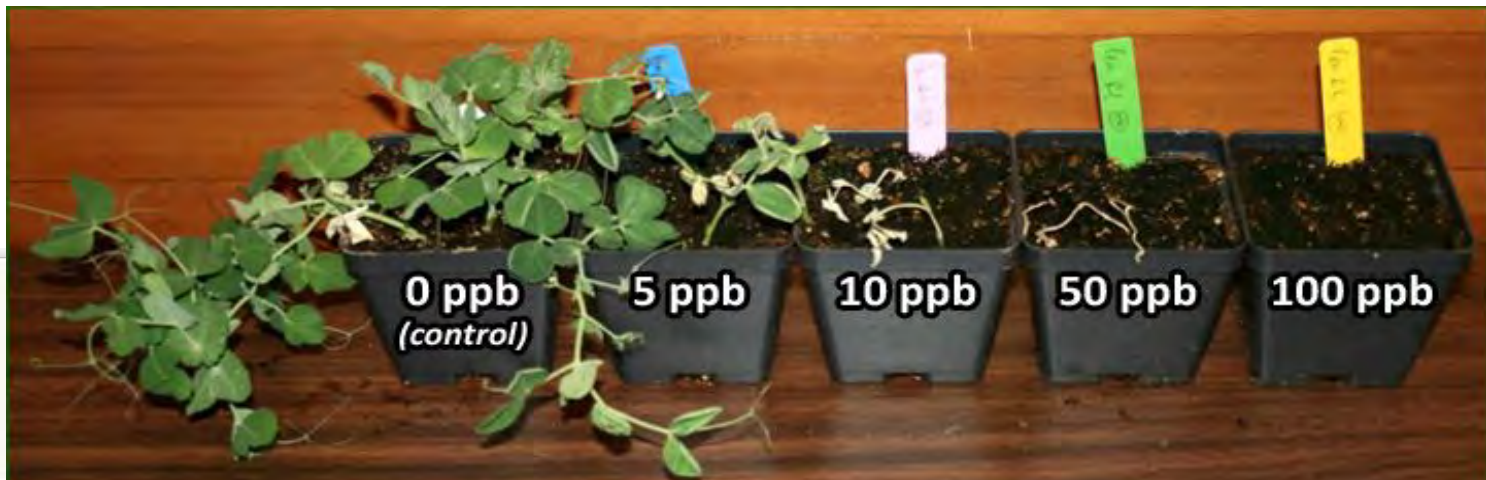
# Persistent Herbicide Factsheets

#1 – Understanding Persistent Herbicides

#2 – Strategies to Mitigate Persistent Herbicide Contamination at Your Composting Facility

#3 – Implementing A Plant Growth Testing Program

<https://compostingcouncil.org/persistent-herbicides/>



# USCC Areas of Engagement

- **Market Development**
  - Seal of Testing Assurance Program®
  - Certified Compost® Marketing
  - Compost End Use Applications
- **Advocacy**
  - National Outreach
  - State Policy Support
  - Partnering Organizations
- **Education**
  - Annual Conference Program
  - Workshops & Webinars
- **Operator & Professional Certification**

- **Membership**

- Communication
- State Chapters
- B2B: Trade Show, Demo Day, Directory

## CCREF

- Operator Training
- Field Testing
- Int'l Compost Awareness Week
- Scholarships
- Research and Whitepapers
- On-line resources

[www.compostfoundation.org](http://www.compostfoundation.org)



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