

# “If it Grows, It Goes”

A handy reminder of what should go into yard waste totes and "kraft" bags (a.k.a. paper landscape collection bags with no tape or garbage bag liner)

## YES ✓

- Grass
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Brush
- Garden waste
- Yard debris
- Shrubs and trees
- Sod
- Soil (no clay)
- Roots



**CONTAMINATION** is a big problem in the pickup and processing of compost. Help do you part by looking out for and keeping the following items **OUT** of your yard waste:

## NO ✗

- Recyclables (including cardboard, plastic bottles, glass)
- Garbage (candy wrappers, chip/snack bags, etc)
- Shoes, flip flops, balls, dog toys
- Lithium batteries, vape pens
- Animal waste (no poop, sorry Fido)
- Rocks, stones and concrete
- Synthetic mulch

## NOT EVEN THESE ✗

- Bags of any kind other than paper (even if they held mulch or soil)\*
- Pots and trays that plants come in
- String (including twine wrapped around bales of branches or straw)
- Landscape or ground cover netting
- Paver blocks and edging
- Treated or cured wood, including landscape timbers

*\*For compostable plastic bags, check with your hauler or municipality first to see if they are accepted.*

**Not sure** if an item should be processed as yard waste or landfill? **“When in doubt, throw it out.”**

**Good in, good out!** Your yard waste is processed into a beneficial soil amendment: **Compost** - which can be used in gardening, fresh plantings, yard restoration, top dressing and mulch, much more.

**Each town is different;** look at your local waste hauler or municipality’s website to learn about your local programs and see if there is an opportunity to include Food Waste with your Yard Waste

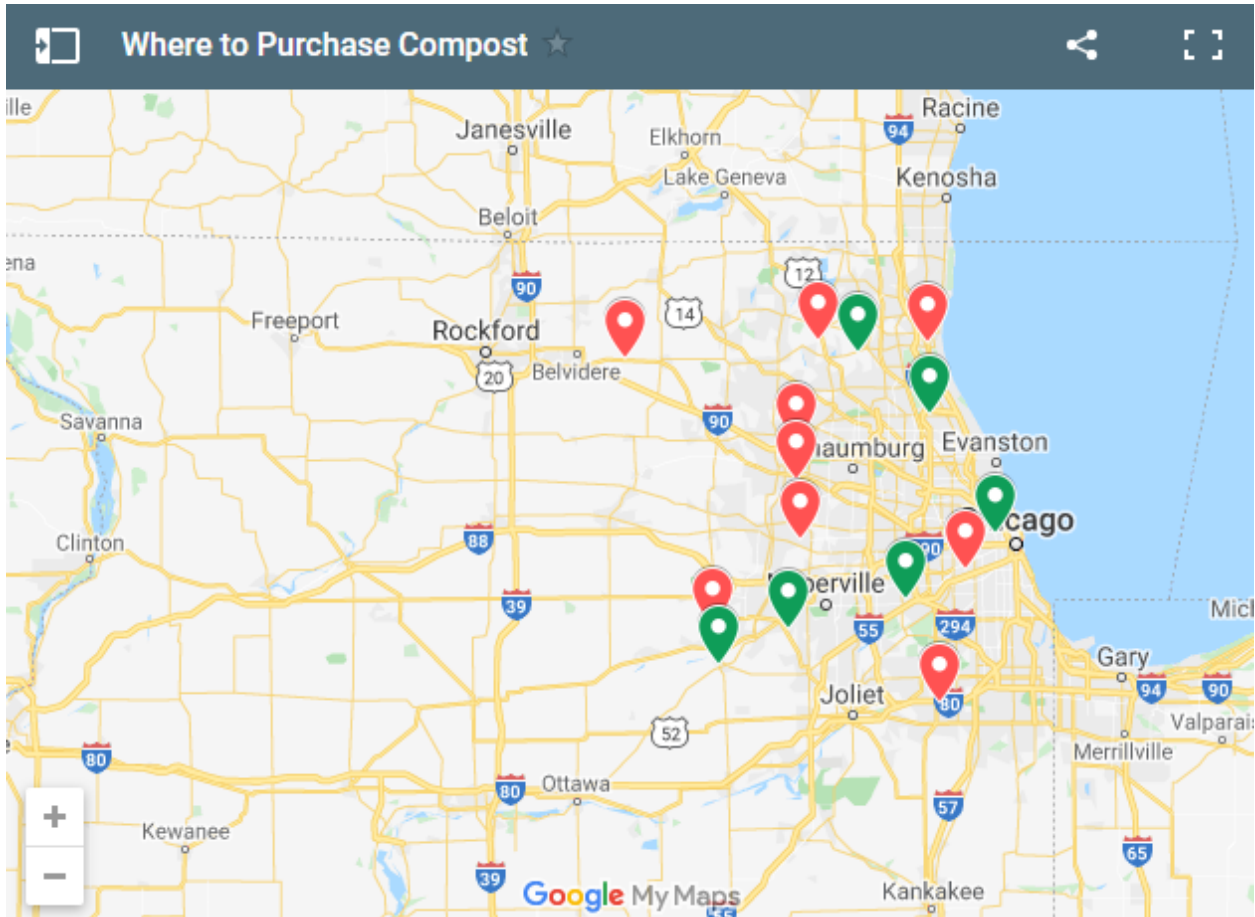




## Not all compost is created equal

Whoever or wherever you're getting your compost from, make sure it has been tested and certified by an independent national organization, either OMRI or USCC-STA certified.

Check out your local composter for premium organic compost: [illinoiscomposts.org](http://illinoiscomposts.org) → resources → where to buy finished compost



### Questions?

Contact us!

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