

# COMPOSTING

## CONNECTING FARM COMPOSTS WITH INDUSTRY USERS

### OBJECTIVES

- Work with market industries to develop specification labels and guidelines for compost use in the grape growing and turf industries;
- Establish demonstration sites to increase knowledge of compost value; Develop and disseminate information by sponsoring and participating in industry events and conferences;
- Assist users in locating appropriate composts by using the Cornell website to link users with producers;
- Provide technical assistance to composting farms to optimize compost production to meet identified user needs.

### OVERVIEW

For livestock farms, composting can reduce odors and pathogens as well as improve biosecurity. Export of compost to markets off farm moves excess nutrients off farm while providing a useful product to compost users. To be a viable manure management tool, however, reliable markets must be developed for agricultural composts. Potential markets for agricultural composts in NYS include vegetable production, orchards, vineyards, and managed turf and landscaping. Many compost users obtain products from distant sources because such items are well-marketed, while little is known about local NYS composts. Promoting local agricultural composts has environmental, economic, and energy savings benefits and the goal of this project is to bring such savings to both compost producers and potential markets in NYS.

### OUTCOME

Anticipated outcomes of this project include:

- Identification of specific compost requirements of the grape growing and turf maintenance industries;
- Evaluation of New York composts for applicability to the grape and turf industries;
- Delivery of information about New York compost sources and markets through networking and educational materials.

### Contact Information:

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Compost trials in a new vineyard.



A NYS agricultural compost facility.

**Export of agricultural composts to markets off the farm removes excess nutrients while providing a useful product to consumers.**

