

UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension Service
Susan Kelly, County Extension Director
352-793-2728
FORCE Project Quarterly Report
September 27-December 31, 2005



Section I – Project Name & Overview

Project Name: Sumter County Extension Service Composting Unit Field Trial and Demonstration Project

Project Description:

The Sumter County Extension Service proposes to conduct a series of field trials at the Sumter County Youth Center on a pre-selected small-scale composting vessel. Compostable organic materials will be collected by local volunteer groups and will serve as the feedstock for the compost unit field test. Testing will take place to determine the effectiveness of a composting unit known as the Earth Tub composting vessel. The Earth Tub composting vessel was selected for this study by the Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE). Testing and data collection will include; type and quantity of feedstock; elapsed time to compost various feedstock; weekly temperature readings and compost analysis by a private laboratory.

To create awareness of the program and to provide educational opportunities, a composting informational kiosk will be created to showcase composting techniques and the results of the Earth Tub demonstration. Children and adults will learn about composting while visiting the Sumter County Youth Center and educational publications will be available to for home, school, office or business application. A promotional publication will be created to promote composting as well as create interest in the FORCE sponsored composting unit field trial.

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Organization/University Address, Telephone, FAX, Email

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d. Principal Investigator/Project Manager/Staffing

Susan Kelly Sumter County Extension Director
Wendel Martinkovic Sumter County Extension Agent-Horticulture

Project Duration: Summer 2005 – March 20, 2006

Partner Organizations

In-Kind Contributions:

- Sumter County Youth Center - electricity, water and site
- Master Gardener Volunteer- assistance and feedstock collection assistance
- iii. UF Extension- project management

b. Matching Funds

g. Project Deliverables:

- Quarterly status reports of project progress
- Final report on Earth Tub evaluations and comparisons with selected feedstocks including private laboratory analysis.
- Copy of all educational and promotional materials developed during the duration of the project

Section II – Project Progress With Time Line

- September 27,2005 - Written approval of grant funds from FORCE Program to UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension Service.
- October 20, 2005 - 25' x 25' concrete slab is poured at demonstration site.

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- November, 2005 - Earth Tub composting vessel is delivered to the demonstration site by Sumter County Public Works.
- November 16, 2005 - 24' x 24' pole barn is back ordered with Bushnell Truss, Inc. Expected arrival date is January, 2006.
- November 29-30 - Trench is dug for 220V electrical wiring from Youth Center to demonstration site.
- December, 2005 - Copper wire is installed from the Youth Center to the demonstration site; organic feedstock collecting started by Master Gardener volunteers and; informational kiosk design is started by Master Gardener volunteers.
- December 15, 2005 - Thirty-two children from the Youth Center are taught about composting and also about the functions of the Earth Tub composting vessel.
- December, 2005 - A swiveling top to guide the power cord for the auger is made to minimize the power cord for the auger getting wrapped around the Earth Tub.
- Background: This problem was identified in the Earth Tub Trouble Shooting handout. The Earth Tub must be mixed ~3x/week with the auger running to mix the food scraps with the bulking agents. This is done by starting the auger and then rotating the tub for two complete rotations (one clockwise and the other counterclockwise). During the rotation, the cord often gets wrapped around the side of the Earth Tub and restricts further movement.

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