

## **Composting Basics**

The Kitts Creek Community Garden maintains a compost station at the garden on Circandian Court. The garden club has received inquiries about contributing to the compost project. All community members are invited to donate acceptable items listed below.

### **Why compost is important:**

Compost is decomposed organic material that is added to the garden beds to enrich the soil between planting seasons. It improves the physical properties of the soil, attracts earthworms, and contains beneficial microorganisms & bacteria. Composting is the process that controls decomposition and transformation of biodegradable material.

### **What can go into the compost?**

Accepted items for compost include kitchen waste such as vegetable scrapes, fruit scrapes, corn cobs, coffee grounds, tea bags and eggshells. Moldy, wilted, spotted, mushy or brown fruits and vegetables are suitable. Kitchen scrapes may be placed in compostable food scrape bags listed as “certified for home composting”. They are available locally at Whole Foods and on-line. Beer and wine making leftovers, wilted cut flower bouquets, biodegradable flower pots, saw dust, coconut liners and dead annuals from your flower pots may be placed in the compost bin. Please cut large item up into 6-8 inch pieces.

### **DO NOT place in compost:**

NO meat, bones, dairy, diseased plants or weeds. **NO EXCREMENT (POOP) OF ANY KIND!** No wrappers, plastic or metal. No wood; it takes too long to break down. Any items that were chemically treated are not acceptable; this is an organic garden. No garbage please.

### **Donating to the compost:**

The compost station consists of 3 bins, labeled A, B & C, from right to left. The station is hidden behind the white fence on the south side. Walk around the outside of the fence to the back to see it. New donations should be placed in bin A, on the right. The middle bin, B, has partially decomposed matter in it. Garden club members may add additional materials, such as leaves or newspaper, to facilitate the process. The left bin, C, contains compost ready for use.