

MARCH 2001

COMPOSTING CHRONICLE

News from the Georgia Composting Association

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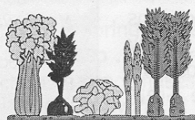
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Urban Compost Demonstration Site

By Britt Faucette
University of Georgia

The University of Georgia, Gaia Gardens, and Arden's Garden Juice Company have teamed up to divert pressed juice pulp from the landfill and compost it with municipal yard waste to create an on-farm residential and industrial by-product compost demonstration and education site.

Twice a week Gaia Gardens Farm Manager, Ryan Cohen, drives a pick up truck to the juice processing plant where employees dump pressed fruit and vegetable juice pulp into the back of his truck instead of the dumpster. The feedstock is easy to handle and mix because it has essentially been dewatered and ground into small particles in the juice pressing process. The juice waste is mixed with leaves collected from the county yard waste collection center in the back of the pick up truck and put in small windrows. The mixture ratio is based on moisture content. Often, the entire composting process can be completed in as little as two months because of the small particle size of the feedstock. Total time spent on picking up the feed-

stock, mixing, filling bins, and monitoring older piles averages 2 hours per week. Ryan Cohen says, "This feedstock is perfect for composting, we are lucky that our farm is located around so many potential sources of free organic feedstock. This

project is a great example of how urban farms can play a major part in the solution to diverting organics from the landfill".

The University of Georgia and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has provided technical assistance to Gaia Gardens (part of East Lake Commons Community) to create an on-farm demon-

stration facility to educate the public on small scale industrial by-product recovery through composting. Self guided tours through the farm feature educational signs on the basics of composting and benefits to composting. For more information contact Britt Faucette at the University of Georgia, britt_faucette@hotmail.com (Britt is a member of GCA.) ■

" This project is a great example of how urban farms can play a major part in the solution to diverting organics from the landfill."

-Ryan Cohen

Welcome New Members

OOPS! Last issue we welcomed Peter Germishuizen. He is with Growmor Organics not Gomer Organics. Sorry Peter. He was pleased that we spelled his last name right!

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