

Troubleshooting

Municipal Yard Waste Composting Operator's Fact Sheet #10 of 10

Tom Richard
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell University



| Problem | Cause | Solution |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Anaerobic Odor | Excess moisture Windrows too large Temperature greater than 140° F Leaf Compaction Surface ponding | Turn windrow Make windrow smaller Turn windrow Turn or reduce windrow size Eliminate ponding Apply odor masking agent (cures symptom, not problem) |
| Low windrow temperature | Windrows too small Insufficient moisture Poor aeration | Combine windrows Add water while turning windrow Turn windrow |
| High windrow temperature | Windrow too large Leaf compaction | Reduce windrow size Turn windrow |
| Surface ponding | Depressions or ruts Inadequate slope | Fill depression and/or re-grade Grade site to recommended slope design |
| Vectors Rats Mosquitoes | Presence of garbage Presence of stagnant water | Remove garbage, or use rat bait Eliminate ponding |
| Pollution of surface waters | Leachate discharge | Treat leachate before it leaves site by passing it through soil, sand or grass, filter area Avoid surface runoff |
| Fires/spontaneous combustion | Excessive temperature Inadequate moisture Stray sparks, cigarettes, etc. | Make windrow smaller Add water Keep potential fire sources away from windrows If fires do start, break windrows apart and extinguish completely |

All material is protected by Section 107 of the 1976 copyright law. Copyright © is held by Cornell University. If you intend to use this material, please acknowledge its author and source.

This page was created on August 30, 1995.
This page was last updated October 2000.

Cornell Waste Management Institute ©1995
Dept of Soil and Crop Sciences
Bradfield Hall, Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-5601
cwmi@cornell.edu