

## Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District Home Composting Workshop Scheduled for May

On November 29, 2007, fifty-six people attended Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District's (HSWCD) workshop on home composting. Many of the attendees purchased a home composting barrel and were supplied with instructions on how to build the stand. The workshop was so successful that HSWCD staff has decided to have another one. Thanks to six volunteers, who stepped up and offered their assistance, fifty composting kits will be available for sale at the next workshop.

On May 8, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. HSWCD will host a new and improved home composting workshop at the Agri-Civic Center auditorium. At the November workshop, prepared barrels were sold to attendees for \$15.00. At the May workshop we will be offering home composting kits, complete with barrel, pre-cut wood, hardware, instructions and screws to assemble the unit at home. These kits will be sold for \$50.00, which is to cover the cost of materials. The idea for the kits came from our group of volunteers and they are diligently working to have the kits ready for the May workshop.

The composters have also been improved and we are now supplying smaller barrels in addition to the larger barrels. Previously all the composting units were made up of fifty-five gallon barrels, but we now offer a smaller version. We have had some thirty-five gallon barrels donated and we are using them to make the unit easier to handle. These smaller kits will allow for easier turning. The barrels don't get quite as heavy as the larger size when full of compost material. But don't worry; if you want the big one, we have some of those available as well.

Included in the workshop will be an informative Power Point presentation on home composting and water conservation. The workshop is free and we welcome all who are interested. All we ask is that you call and let us know you're coming so that we're sure to have enough chairs set up. To get on the list, call (863) 402-6545. When you call, let us know that you want to attend the workshop and also if you want to reserve a compost kit. We will only have fifty kits and those who sign up early are sure to get one!

The workshop will also provide useful home water saving tips and handouts to share with friends and neighbors. In addition, we will have excellent information on composting and all the great reasons you should do it.

Just a few of the benefits of composting include:

- It saves you money by replacing store-bought soil conditioners. (Fertilizers, etc.)
- It helps gardens, lawns and plants grow by improving the fertility of your soil.
- It saves water by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff.
- It benefits the environment by recycling valuable organic resources, reducing air and water pollution from refuse trucks and runoff and extending the life of our landfills.

The workshop should prove to be very educational and lots of fun. Complete with door prizes and refreshments, it is our hope that all who attend will leave with more knowledge and the ability to conserve water and compost.

You will be on your way to having healthier, greener plants, helping the environment and saving money! We hope to see you there.