

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair
Jane Hankins - Vice Chair
Beth McClain - Secretary
Ken Strait - Liaison to
Land Use Board
Burt Doremus
Marion Carll
Cheryl Lalancette

Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Newsletters are available on the township website and the township Facebook page. Printed copies available in the municipal building.

For more information on Composting check out:

www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

The Ultimate Guide to Composting for Beginners
@www.gardeningknowhow.com

What is Composting?



Composting is a controlled, aerobic (oxygen-required) process that converts organic materials into a nutrient-rich soil amendment or mulch through natural decomposition. The end product is compost - a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling material. Microorganisms feed on the materials added to the compost pile during the composting process. They use carbon and nitrogen to grow and reproduce, water to digest materials, and oxygen to breathe. You can compost at home using food scraps from your kitchen and dry leaves and woody material from your yard.

Why Compost at Home?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce our trash, address climate change, and build healthy soil. By turning our food scraps and yard trim into compost, we can transform our waste streams into a beneficial, value-added soil amendment and use it to protect the environment and create resilient communities. Composting is a resourceful way to recycle the food scraps and yard trim you generate at home all year and manage your waste more sustainably.

You reduce the volume of materials that might otherwise be disposed in landfills or trash incinerators - leaves, grass clippings, yard trim, and food scraps - and prevent powerful greenhouse gases from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Composting involves minimal effort, equipment, expense, and expertise, and can be fun.

New Jersey Forest Fire Service

On average of 1,500 wildfires damage or destroy 7,000 acres of New Jersey's forests each year.

Wildfires not only damage our woodlands, but are becoming an increasing threat to homeowners who live within or adjacent to forest environments and residents who utilize the state's great outdoors for various forms of recreation.

Since 1906 the New Jersey Forest Fire Service has been the agency responsible for protecting life, property, as well as the state's natural resources from wildfire.

The New Jersey Forest Fire Service's Division C fleet, covers Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, **Cumberland**, Gloucester and Salem counties.

To date in 2023, Division C has responded to 194 wildfires and an additional 74 non-wildfire incidences.

Learn more about the New Jersey Forest Fire Service: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/fire/>

Wildfire Prevention

Most wildfires are preventable. Here's how to help reduce wildfire risk:

Don't discard cigarettes, matches or smoking materials on the ground.

Contact your nearest Forest Fire Service office for information on how to obtain a Campfire Permit.

Don't leave fires unattended. Douse them completely, until cold to the touch.

Keep matches and lighters away from children. Teach youth about fire safety. Children can learn about wildfire safety with Smokey Bear's new mobile game "Smokey's Scouts."

Protect your home and other structures from wildfire by creating defensible space. Visit www.njwildfire.org for more.

Ensure fire trucks can access driveways.

Report suspicious vehicles and individuals to authorities.

Use wood stoves and fireplaces carefully, since both can emit embers that spark fires. Fully douse ashes with water before disposal.

More about wildfires and climate change next month.

Summer Yard To Do List

Remove infected plant material from vegetable and flower beds

Get your soil tested

Can or freeze Strawberries, Asparagus, and Parsley

Look for spotted lantern fly eggs

Water your plants deeply

Mow grass 3" or taller to help it survive the heat

Leave seed heads for birds to eat

Buy local produce

Remove summer annual weeds such as crabgrass before they go to seed

For more Resources for homeowners see:

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County

291 Morton Ave.

Millville, NJ 08332

856.451.2800 x4

mastergardener@cumberlandcounty.gov

With Information materials on:

Lawns & Alternatives

Plant Problems

Weeds & Toxic Plants

Small Space & Urban Gardening

Insect & Wildlife Pests

Native Plants

Trees & Shrubs

Vegetable Gardens

Rain Barrels & Gardens