

# Composting Vocabulary

**ANALYZE** – reactions or organisms requiring presence of free oxygen.

**ANAEROBIC** – reaction or organism that does not require the presence of free oxygen.

**BIODEGRADABLE** – material that is able to be readily decomposed or broken down by biological means, especially bacterial action.

**COMPOST** – organic matter which has been decomposed by microorganisms.

**DECAY** – to rot away; waste away.

**DECOMPOSE** – break down; change form.

**DECOMPOSER** – microorganism which breaks down large organic molecules into smaller molecules.

**DISINTEGRATE** – to break up; crumble to pieces.

**EARTH** – the soil; dry land.

**HUMUS** – nutrient-rich organic matter in soil.

**LEFTOVERS** – food that is not eaten during a meal.

**MANURE** – animals' excrement (waste) used as fertilizer.

**MICROORGANISM** – a living thing which is too small to be seen with the unaided eye.

**NITROGEN** – an element with seven protons, neutrons and electrons that is found in various minerals and all proteins.

**NUTRIENTS** – materials a body gets from food to use for energy, growth, and repair.

**ORGANIC** – occurs naturally in life.

**OXYGEN** – atom with eight protons, neutrons, and electrons; absolutely essential for life.

**ROT** – to decompose naturally.

**SOIL** – top layer of earth's surface.

**STALE** – not fresh, kept too long.

