

# Compost Site Selection

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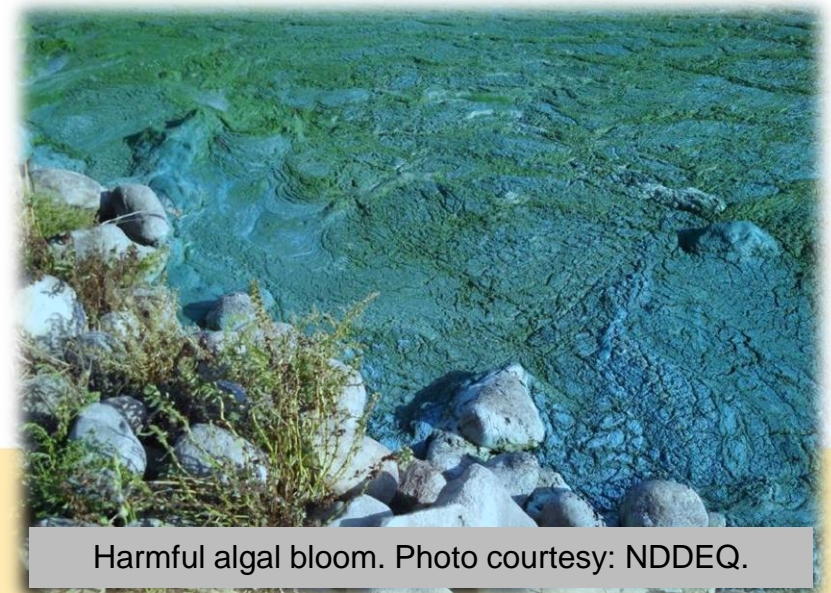
# What are we doing?

- “Composting manure is a process in which animal feces, urine, and bedding are stacked, turned, and managed in a way that promotes decomposition.”
  - – C. Modderman, Animal Manure: Production, Characteristics, Environmental Concerns, and Management, Volume 67, Jan. 09, 2020



# Why does it matter?

- Manure and compost contain valuable nutrients plants need. If the nutrients are not used they become a pollutant and are wasted.
- **Improper manure storage and land application**
  - Excess soil nutrients
  - Surface runoff
  - Leachate
  - Water contaminated with manure



Harmful algal bloom. Photo courtesy: NDDEQ.





# Selecting a composting site



- Depends on your individual state regulations.
- What are the manure stacking/stockpiling guidelines?
  - Temporary (days)
  - Short-term (months)
  - Long-term (permanent)

# In general...

- Temporary (days)
  - Will not be used for composting but may be used for moving compost to a field edge for spreading
- Short-term (months)
  - May best fit a smaller volume operation
  - Allows for quick composting site
  - Moved to a different location each year
- Long-term (permanent)
  - Best for large volume operation
  - Consistent and continuous composting site



# Soil type

- **Sandy soils have rapid permeability** that allows nitrate to move quickly through the soil to ground water (leaching), while **loamy or clayey soils have slower permeability** that helps retain nitrate in the soil profile.
- Sinkholes, caves and rock outcroppings likely lead to groundwater contamination
- Depth to ground water and location of surface water





# General rules of thumb

May **NOT** be located:

- In gravel pits, sand pits, rock quarries or any other excavation areas
- Along streams, lakes or shorelines
- Within a flood plain or near a sinkhole
- Within \*specific\* feet of a private water supply well, public water supply well or watertight casing



# Other concerns



- Take into account neighboring residences and prevailing wind direction when selecting sites (1/2 mile good rule of thumb)
- Depending on your operation size, there may be concerns about type of equipment going to and coming from your site.





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*Thank you!*