

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## 5 Transformative Powers of Compost

While both compost and fertilizer serve the purpose of enhancing soil fertility, the added benefits of compost often overshadow those of conventional fertilizers.

Benefits of using compost over fertilizer:

1. **Compost offers a diverse array of nutrients, minerals, and microorganisms to create a thriving ecosystem in your soil.** This rich diversity allows for a gradual release of nutrients, ensuring a sustained and balanced nourishment for plants.
2. **Compost improves soil structure and moisture retention.** This allows for better drainage in heavy soils and increased water retention in sandy soils.
3. **Compost is an environmentally friendly option over commercial fertilizers.** When misused or in excess, fertilizers can contribute to water pollution and harm our ecosystems.
4. **Compost provides long-term sustainability.** Composting encourages the recycling of organic waste materials such as kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and leaves, diverting them from landfills.
5. **Using compost over commercial fertilizers is more cost-effective in the long run.** Creating your own compost on-site or sourcing it locally can significantly reduce expenses associated with purchasing fertilizers regularly.

Embracing composting not only transforms gardens into thriving ecosystems but also contributes to a healthier planet.

To learn about the current fertilizer ban, please head to [MyYardOurWater.org](http://MyYardOurWater.org).

For more compost info, bring your compost-curious self to [gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste](http://gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste).



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