

Provided by Five Star Equipment, Inc

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WORKSITE

Journal



black gold

ENRICHING THE LAND WITH
COMPOST AND MULCH

TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK TURNS WASTE INTO VALUABLE COMMODITIES

On average, a U.S. household generates 650 pounds of compostable material, including yard waste, food scraps, and paper, each year. Unfortunately, 60 percent of this material goes into landfills instead of being recycled. Municipal compost facilities such as the one in the Town of Orchard Park, New York, are recycling organic and yard waste into compost and mulch, materials that help restore depleted soil and fuel plant growth. And they're saving their communities money.



BACK INTO THE LAND INSTEAD OF LANDFILLS

Orchard Park is a community of approximately 27,000. It's home to the Buffalo Bills. Ralph Wilson Stadium, or "the Ralph" as it is known, is about a 10-minute drive from the municipal compost facility.

Frederick Piasecki, Jr., Facility Director of the compost facility in Orchard Park, grabs a handful of compost from a long windrow. "Black gold," he says. "Our facility probably saves the community a-half-a-million dollars a year by diverting waste from costly landfills. Plus we can sell our materials to cover our operation costs."

The facility produces 30,000 cubic yards of the black stuff each year. The facility collects and community members bring in leaves, which are biodegraded into a valuable organic fertilizer. The facility also collects brush and tree trimmings from residents, other municipalities, and tree services, which is ground into chips and used to produce mulch.

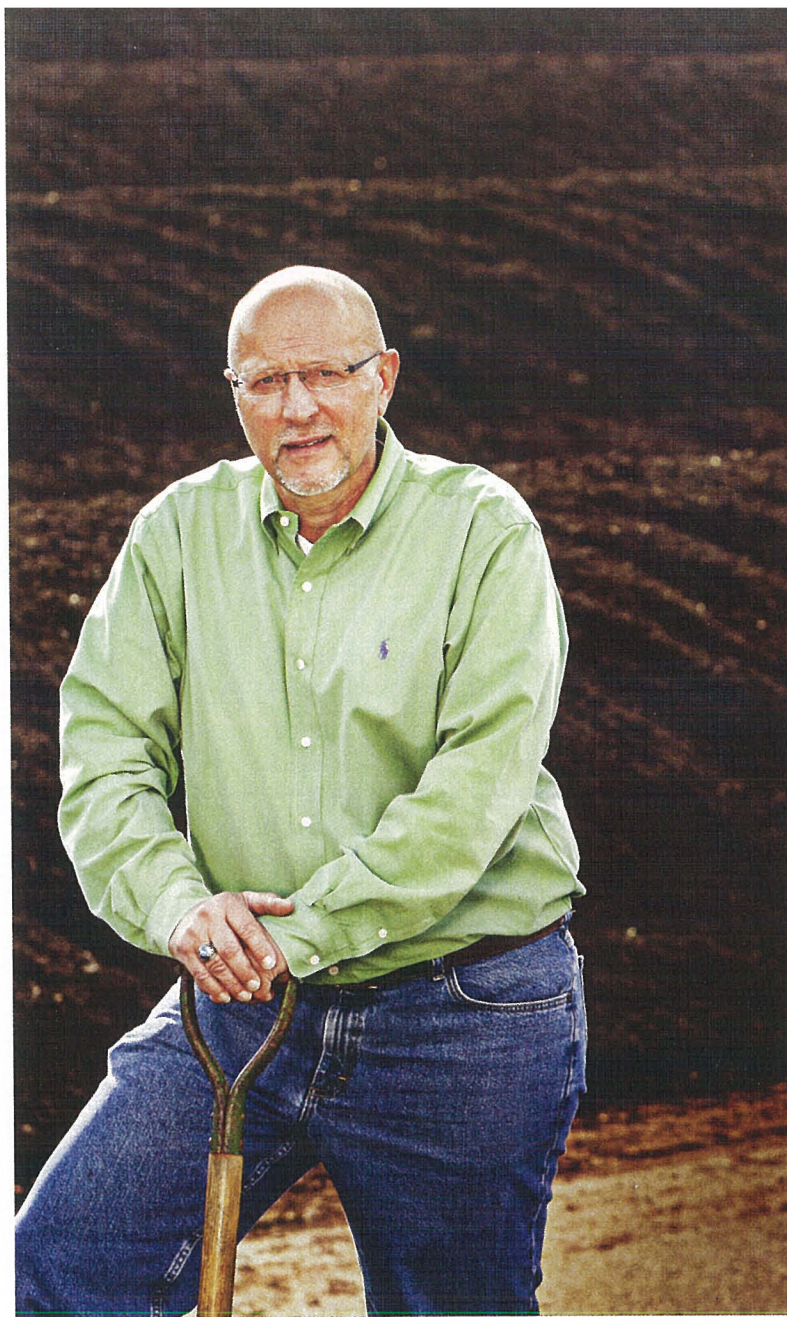
"We're receiving from nature, and we're giving back," says Piasecki. "Residents of Orchard Park love our facility. They can buy compost and mulch at reduced cost. And once a year we have a free mulch day for our residents. People mark that on their calendars and are lined up down the block. We also sell our material to landscapers and garden centers."

The facility is immaculate and state of the art. A massive expanse of asphalt provides a smooth, clean surface, making it easy to tend to the long windrows of compost and mulch. "We've had Boy Scout troops and garden clubs in here to learn about the process," says Piasecki. "We're very proud of this facility."

TURNING OVER AN OLD LEAF

The facility's three John Deere loaders are constantly on the go. A 244J Compact Loader loads and unloads customer vehicles, while a larger 444K Loader tows a Wildcat compost turner powered by a Deere engine. The turner constantly inverts the compost piles, which introduces oxygen into the mix and speeds decomposition. A Deere 644J Loader is used for the mulch operation by moving the brush, feeding the chipper, and stockpiling buckets of mulch.

"Our newest addition is the 244J," says Piasecki. "We're really delighted with it. Its compact size is perfect for stockpiling in tight areas around the tall windrows. Visibility is outstanding, which is important for safety when loading up customer vehicles. It has ample power and lift capacity. The cab is super-spacious and comfortable. It's just the ideal piece of equipment."



The facility hasn't had many issues with its John Deere machines, but Piasecki knows the local Deere dealer, Five Star Equipment, is right there for them. "Five Star has been just really phenomenal. We have a great relationship with the service manager. We can't say enough about them. And John Deere just keeps making better and better machines that we know we can rely on. We're very happy with them and will be sticking with them."

The Town of Orchard Park is serviced by Five Star Equipment Inc., Orchard Park, New York.

▶ Check out the video at:
JohnDeere.com/townoforchardpark

ready for anything



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— FREDERICK PIASECKI, JR., TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK FACILITY DIRECTOR

Need a compact loader to get big results? Step up to the tight-turning, heavy-lifting John Deere 244K Loader. This versatile machine combines outstanding maneuverability, travel speed, breakout force, reach, and stability to tackle tasks other machines can't. Oscillating stereo steering delivers a smooth turning radius that's up to 20-percent tighter than comparable loaders — for faster cycle times and better material retention over rough terrain. Add a spacious cab and extra uptime from sealed electrical connections, more durable axles, and extended service intervals, and you've got a multipurpose machine that is ready, able, and willing to take on whatever work you've got.



+ BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Helps produce bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create rich, nutrient-filled material

Reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers

Lowers methane emissions from landfills

Enriches soil, which helps retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests

Source: www.epa.gov