Name _____ **Address** _____ **Date** _____

BACKYARD COMPOSTING CORRESPONDENCE COURSE QUIZ

City residents are encouraged to compost their yard waste. City residents that attend a Backyard Yard Composting Seminar or take the Correspondence Quiz below are eligible to purchase a BioStack compost bin at a cost less than retail. The BioStack bins are available while quantities last.

- Read the manual and complete questions 1-15. Please circle your answer.
- Upon completion, bring your quiz and proof of City residency to Solid Waste Services, 2812 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832 to purchase a BioStack compost bin.

1. What is a good reason to compost?

a. Compost makes the soil fertile.
b. Compost improves soil structure, texture and the ability to hold air.
c. Composting reduces the amount of waste sent to the landfill.
d. Composting is one form of recycling that is good for the environment.
e. All of the above are good reasons to compost.

2. What is the <u>best</u> ratio of carbon material (such as dry leaves) for your compost pile and nitrogen material (such as fresh grass clippings)?

a. 1:1 ratio
b. 100% nitrogen
c. 3:1 ratio
d. 1:3 ratio
e. 100% carbon

3. Why is it important to keep your compost pile moist and aerated?

a. Water and air help the microorganisms make compost.
b. If the compost pile is too dry, the material will blow away on windy days.
c. This will help keep the pile from getting too hot.

4. You must NEVER shred the material you put in your compost pile.

True False

5. If you use the "dump 'n' run" composting method, you can still make compost.

True False

6. You <u>SHOULD NOT</u> put _____ in your compost pile.

a. Vegetable scraps
b. Meat
c. Leaves
d. Wood chips
e. Grass clippings
f. Hair
g. Banana peels
h. Bread

7. **To promote rapid decomposition, the pile should be kept moist. Which of the following most correctly describes appropriate moisture content?**

   a. Fully saturated or until the material in your pile will not hold more water.
   b. A wrung-out sponge or about 40% moisture content.
   c. Normal soil in our garden, or about 20% moisture content.
   d. None of the above.

8. **When your compost pile is hot, it means:**

   a. It is getting too much sun.
   b. The compost has spoiled.
   c. The microorganisms are eating.
   d. It is about to catch on fire.

9. **Which of the following do worms eat?**

   a. Fruit
   b. Vegetables
   c. Tea bags
   d. Their weight in food each day
   e. Coffee grounds, including filters
   f. All of the above.

10. **Other types of worms (besides red worms) are unsuitable for worm composting.**

    True False

11. **Bedding that you can use for a worm bin include:**

    a. Straw
    b. Peat moss
    c. Leaves
    d. Cardboard
    e. Paper
    f. Any of the above.

12. **Worms can eat spoiled fruit and vegetables from your refrigerator.**

    True False

13. **Fatty foods that do not belong in your backyard compost pile also do not belong in your worm bin.**

    True False

14. **Worm boxes can be kept either indoors or outdoors.**

    True False

15. **A bad odor comes from my backyard compost bin or worm box. One cause of this may be:**

    a. That fat or meat was added, and the putrefaction process caused it.
    b. That anaerobic (not enough air) conditions have developed and it needs to be turned.
    c. That too many nitrogen rich materials like grass or food scraps were added.
    d. All of the above.