

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## *“Leaf” It in Your Yard (Composting) Teacher Tips for Managing a Classroom Compost Pile*



### *The First Time...*

- 1) Make the first time the compost pile is checked for moisture and turned a whole class activity. Choose a dry day so that students can sit near the pile. This will lessen the temptation for students to become distracted.
- 2) Discuss safe use of tools (dull pronged pitchfork or shovel, goggles, water bottle, optional soil thermometer) as well as appropriate behaviors for independent team work.
- 3) Call on students one or two at a time to complete the steps on the Student Tips for Managing a Classroom Compost Pile page.
- 4) Have students bring out paper and pencil so they can take notes. Make sure they know that pile maintenance in the future will be done by teams rather than by the whole class.

### *Independent Team Maintenance (the second time on...)*

- 1) Have student teams read and sign a team copy of the Compost Safety Contract prior to completing independent compost maintenance.
- 2) Provide teams with a copy of Student Tips for Managing a Classroom Compost Pile and the troubleshooting guidelines (Data Sheet 4) that they can take with them during independent compost maintenance. Have them read these pages before going to the compost pile.
- 3) Provide teams with the needed tools. When in doubt, use a shovel rather than a pitchfork.
- 4) Assign jobs. In a team of three, there should be a recorder, tool manager, and measurer.
- 5) Let the team know that they will be expected to report their findings to the class and that the quality of their report and the careful completion of their jobs will be given a grade.