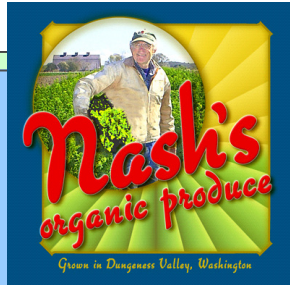


2-19-10

What's in the box?

White Wheat Flour
Golden Beets
Green Kale



Box 5 of 10

Rutabagas
Sweet Dumpling and Delicata
Squashes from Hedlin Farms

Keys to Dungeness Soil Fertility (Part II)

Nash's compost operation is state of the art for a farm our size. We utilize a windrow (elongated pyramid shape) pile system on about eight acres on the Delta Farm as opposed to piles that would be turned or aerated individually. We begin building the piles with around 50 truck loads of wood chips from a local supplier. These are dumped in continuous rows and vegetable waste is added. A commercial compost turner from HCL Machine Works is utilized to form the windrows, add water/manure wash, and aerate. (See photos below). A video of its operation can found at <http://www.compostturners.com/Product.asp>. We also add whey to the windrows from a local cheese-making operation which feeds the beneficial bacteria and accelerates the decomposition process. Our 4-wheel drive, tandem rear-wheeled tractor pulls the compost turner at the crawler speed it requires and a coiled 3" flexible hose reel that feeds water out to the turner as it moves down each windrow.



To meet organic certification standards, we maintain pile temps between 131°F and 170°F for 15 days, during which time the materials are turned a minimum of five times.

This kills harmful bacteria and weed seeds. We exceed the 15 day requirement until most of the wood chips are decomposed. Otherwise the material applied to our fields would require additional nitrogen to finish decomposing. This would take nitrogen from our soil instead of adding it, defeating the purpose of composting.



Rutabaga Waldorf Salad

We thank Mike Shethar, former chef intern at Nash's Organic Produce, for this recipe. Check out his blog at www.gofarmyourself.blogspot.com.

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 1 peeled, diced apple
- 1/2 cup coarsely grated rutabaga
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted peanuts
- Salt and ground pepper to taste

Put mayo in a small bowl. Add the lemon juice, a little at a time, stirring until smooth.

In a large bowl, combine the cabbage, apple, rutabaga, raisins, and peanuts. Add the mayo mixture and toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Chill before serving.

Composts that don't meet the above criteria can still be used in organic farming. But if they contain animal manure, they must be applied to agricultural land in accordance with USDA National Organic Program regulations for manure which state that raw animal manure must be composted, unless at least one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- Applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption.
- Incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles.
- Incorporated into the soil not less than 90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles.

We keep a thorough record so that we know when each component is added to the windrows, when the piles are turned, and what the temperatures are.

The finished compost is loaded into a compost spreader and applied to our fields, or the remaining wood chips can be screened out of the compost leaving a wonderful soil base for seed starts in our greenhouses.