

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Ohio's Composting Rules Development

Model Composting Regulations Webinar

USEPA

June 20, 2013

Composting Rules Timeline

- 1992 – Original Rules
- 2003 – First Revision
- 2012 – Second Revision



Model Rules

- Contribution
 - Definitions
 - Tiers
 - Exemptions
 - Operational standards
- My advantage
 - 10 + years implementing rules
 - Field / compliance experience
 - Recently studied other state rules

Ohio Stakeholders Engagement

- Required administrative rule review every 5 years
- Continued input
 - Database
 - Authorizing actions
- Concept meetings
 - Internal: District inspectors
 - External: Organics Recycling Association, health department, solid waste management districts, academia, etc.

300 sq.ft. exemption

- Any person, any source, use anywhere
- Only yard waste, animal waste, food scraps, bulking agents & additives
- 300 sq. ft. or less
- No nuisances & health hazards
- No surface & ground water pollution



Small Scale composting Issues

- Community gardens
 - Needed to accept outside materials in order to make enough compost
 - Registration was a problem because difficulty assigning a person as registrant or operator
- Residents
 - Could only compost their own waste (no coffee grounds from Starbucks)
- Institutions and businesses
 - Employee efforts required registration and licensing

Asking for Input

- Explain why the rule is problematic and why being able to do the activity is important to them and the community
- Offer a solution that reasonably allowed us to meet our duty to prevent/manage environmental and health risks, and nuisances

Comparing Definitions

- Ohio
 - "Food scraps" means food residuals including but not limited to vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy products, meats, and the compostable packaging that may be commingled.
- Model Rule
 - Food Residuals: Pre and postconsumer food discards from households and the commercial/institutional sector including but not limited to vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy products, meats and compostable foodservice ware/packaging that may be commingled.

USCC's STA Quality Standards

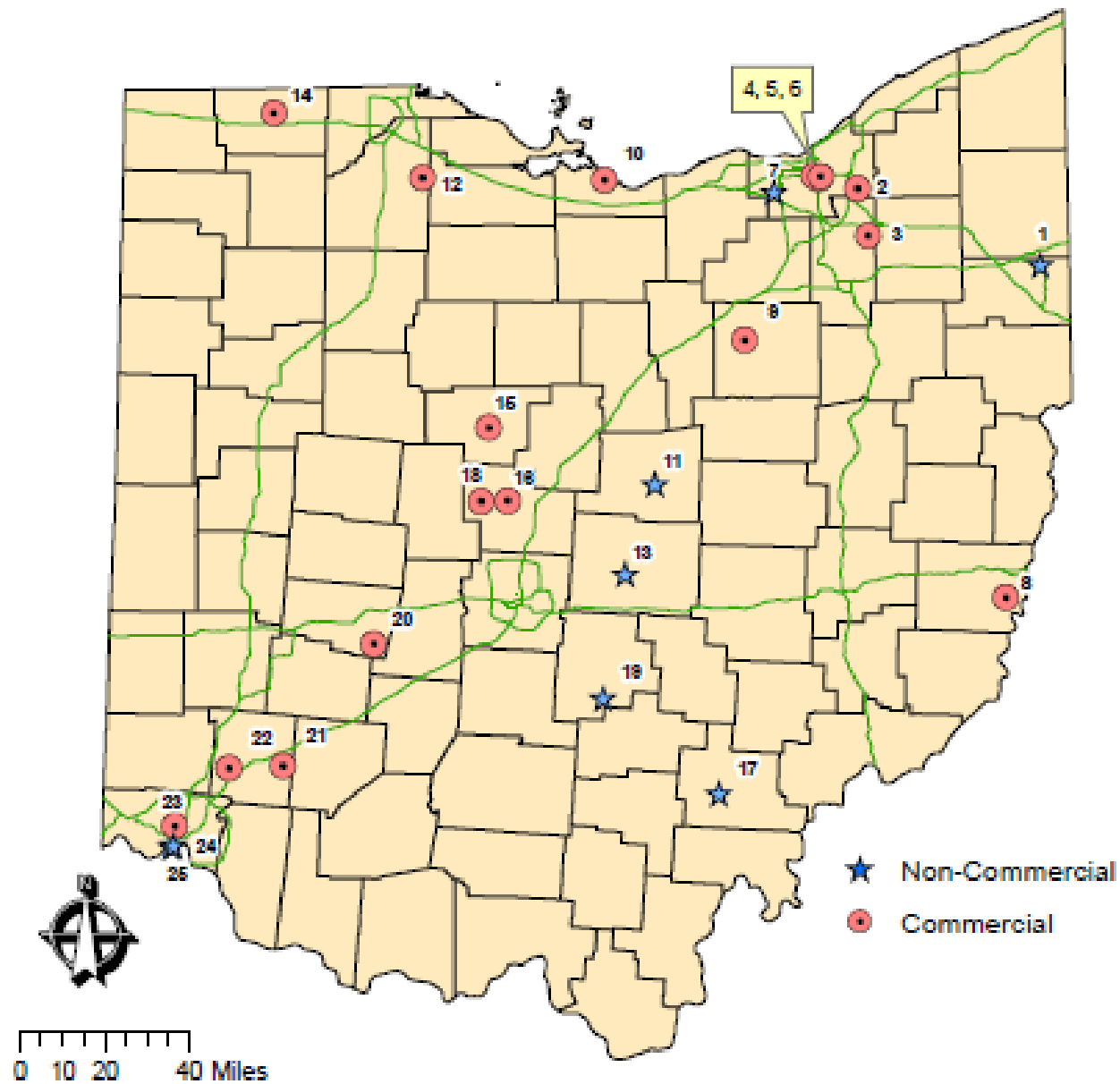
Table 1 - Heavy metals

Parameter	Concentration limit mg/kg dry weight	Preparation methods	Analytical methods	TMECC equivalent methods
Arsenic	41	SW-846 3050B or SW-846 3051A	SW-846 6010C or SW-846 6020A or SW-846 7010	TMECC 04.06-As

Table 4 - General parameters

Parameter	Analytical method
Boron	TMECC 04.05-B or Preparation: SW-846 3050B or SW-846 3051A and Analytical: SW-846 6010C or SW-846 6020A
Maturity	TMECC 05.08-A Specific Oxygen Uptake Rate or TMECC 05.08-B Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate or TMECC 05.08-C In-situ Oxygen Refresh Rate or TMECC 05.08-D Dewar Self-Heating Test or TMECC 05.08-E Solvita® Maturity Index or TMECC 05.08-F Biologically Available Carbon
pH	TMECC 04.11-A or North central regional (NCR) publication 221 or SW-846 9045D soil pH or ASTM D2976
Salinity	TMECC 04.10-A or NCR publication 221





Thanks!

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