

We often forget that many of the practices we use in our home gardens have been used in the farming world for hundreds of years. In order to get the most out of the crop residue left over on the field at the end of the year, farmers typically do a "fall application" of compost that helps the leftover stubble and plant material break down over the winter. When these leftovers are broken down by soil microbes, they release an amazing source of organic nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and minerals - key players in soil health. This guide will explain how to utilize this idea in your garden.





## PREPARE YOUR LAWN FOR WINTER

Most people don't realize that the best time of the year to feed your lawn or turf is in the fall. In Michigan, the timing is important. Turf experts recommend feeding grass in Mid-November to early December, depending on your location.

- UP and Northern Lower Peninsula: mid-November
- Central and Lower Peninsula: Beginning of December
- Southern Michigan: early December

These guidelines are dependent on snowfall amounts. SAFE GREEN LAWN can be spread on a light covering of snow. Plan to use 8-10 pounds for every 1000 square feet.



## **PUT YOUR GARDEN TO BED**

- 1) Knock down leftover plant material in your garden.
- 2) Cover with 1/2 inch of DAIRY DOO® and 2 pounds of HEALTHY GARDEN for every 100 square feet.
- 3) Rototill or disc plant material with DAIRY DOO® and HEALTHY GARDEN into existing soil and water well.
- 4) In the spring, add 1/4 inch of DAIRY DOO® to your garden before you rototill. Your garden is then ready for planting!



## IF YOU HAVE VINE-LIKE PLANTS.....

Pile your stringy or vine-like plants away from the garden. Add DAIRY DOO and HEALTHY GARDEN to your pile to create you own compost for next year.

- Add one part DAIRY DOO for every four parts of paper, dry leaves, or sawdust.
- Add one handful HEALTHY GARDEN for every one part of plant material or grass clippings.

In the spring, spread your compost across your garden and till in approximately 6 inches. Water the soil well, rake smooth, and your garden is then ready for planting!

Depending on the types of plant matter that you're working with you can return as much as 60% of the N-P-K that was used up during the growing season to your soil. Not only are you saving on fertilizer costs for the next year, but you are also building valuable carbon in your soil. This addition of organic matter feeds the beneficial soil bacteria and fungi which improves the health of your soil, your vegetables, the environment, and you!

Store SAFE GREEN LAWN and HEALTHY GARDEN in a dry area