



Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management



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New Jersey passes food waste bill

More than six months after New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy conditionally vetoed a food waste bill that he said was “weakened” by amendments, Murphy has signed legislation that would stop large generators of food waste from sending it to incinerators or landfills. AB 2371 goes into effect in 18 months.

The bill requires generators of more than 52 tons of food per year to separate food waste and send it to the closest authorized food waste processing facility within 25 miles.

Beginning in about 18 months, each large food waste generator that is located within 25 road miles of an authorized food waste recycling facility and generates an average projected volume of 52 or more tons per year of food waste must:

- Source separate its food waste from other solid waste; and
- Send the source separated food waste

(See New Jersey, page 4)

Research: Organic agriculture can curb nitrogen pollution

The media, in covering climate change, typically focuses on carbon emissions, said Dr. Jessica Shade, director of science programs at The Organic Center, based in Washington, D.C. However, Shade said, nitrogen - particularly reactive nitrogen - is an often overlooked part of the equation.

According to Shade, nitrous oxide (N₂O), is a potent greenhouse gas with more than 300 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Agriculture is the largest human source of N₂O, contributing more than two thirds of N₂O emissions, Shade said, adding that synthetic fertilizer application on conventional crops - especially corn and soybeans - is one of the leading sources of N₂O emissions in agriculture, and also leads to nitrate leaching into groundwater.

On behalf of The Organic Center, Shade is co-author of a new study led by researchers at the University of Virginia, which concludes that organic farming



(See Nitrogen, page 15)

Mushroom composter busted for stormwater discharges

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board has ordered Monterey Mushrooms Inc. to pay \$911,800 for discharging polluted stormwater into Fisher Creek, harming water quality and threatening aquatic life, the board said.

The company, which is the largest grower of fresh mushrooms in North America, discharged more than 650,000 gallons of polluted water from its Morgan Hill facility into Fisher Creek. Nearly half of the penalty - \$440,364 - will fund

a Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority project to restore 3.5 acres of habitat along the creek, downstream of the Morgan Hill facility.

“This penalty sends a clear message that Monterey Mushrooms must

(See Mushroom, page 8)

Highlights

- n **Biochar tested as ‘kickstarter’ to degrade agricultural mulch**
- n **National compost prices**

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