



# **COMPOSTING WITH MEERA AND VERONICA**

# THE BEGINNING OF COMPOSTING

Roles:

- Meera made observations, documented progress
- Veronica tore browns, broke down food scraps, and turned contents
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – Day 1:
  - Geobin contents were very dry
  - The added greens included eggshells, avocado peels, and cauliflower
  - Also added water to the mixture
  - Contents were turned with a giant corkscrew



# MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

- **Temperature rose from 66°F to 68/69°F**
- **Found burger remnants**
- **Added both greens and browns**
  - Veggie scraps, mulch
  - Coffee grounds, pineapple, avocados, beets, shredded paper, mulch
  - Compostable bowl
- **Turned pile several times**
- **Several cups of water were added to moisten**

# APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

- **Temperature of 75°F**
- **Smelling a little funky!**
- **Tiny flies in addition to pill bugs, worms, and possible millipedes**
- **Added greens and browns**
  - Roughly 10-12 cups of fruits (mango, papaya, and oranges)
  - Eggshells, beans, and green beans from Laura H.
  - Coffee grounds
- **No water was added as it looked sufficiently moist**



# LAST WEEK

- Temperature of 78°F
- Smelling a bit malodorous today
- Surprise rain shower in Long Beach
- Observed pill bugs and millipedes
- Greens: banana leaf, banana peels, coffee grounds, and vegetable scraps
- Contents were still moist, no water necessary

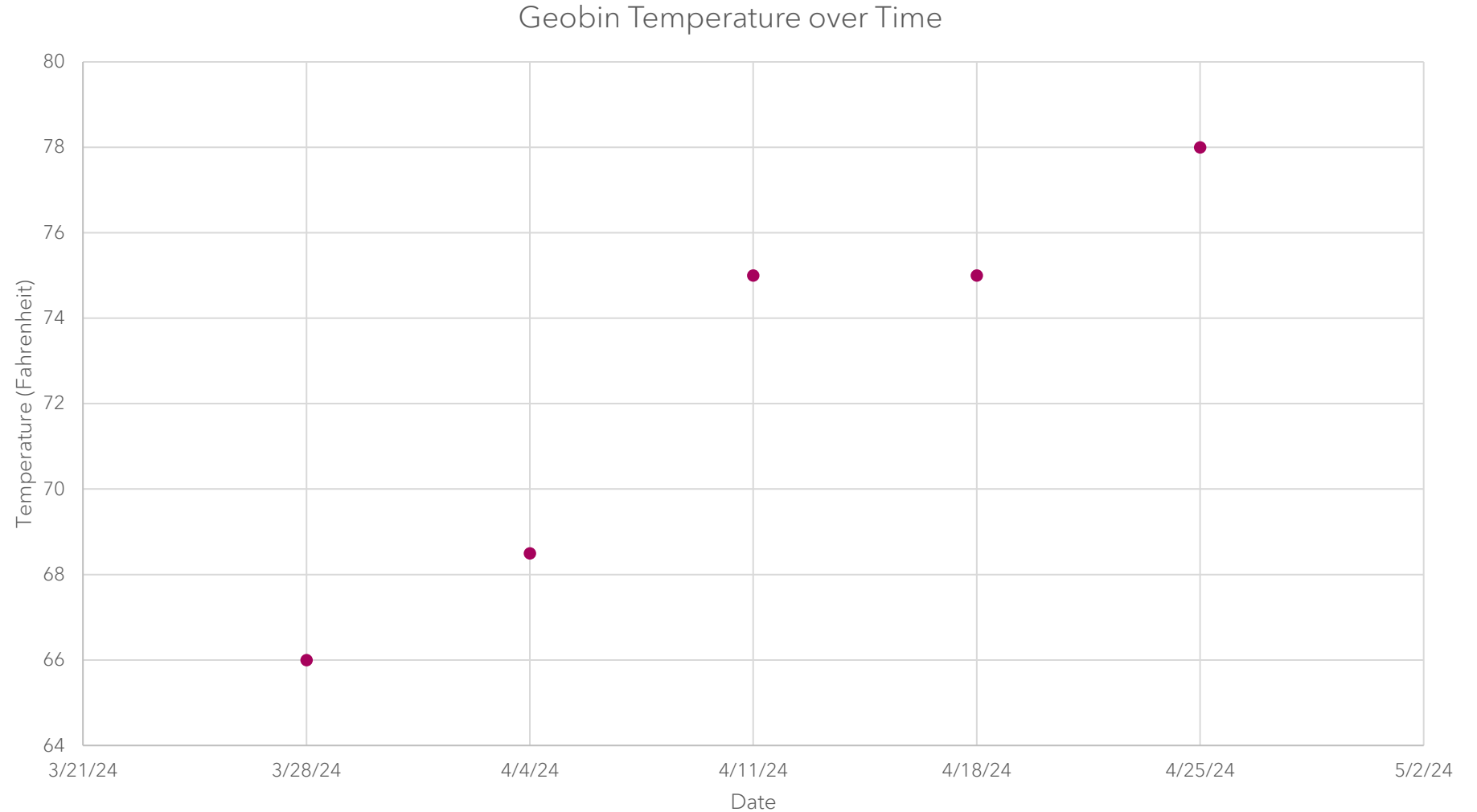




**LAST WEEK**

Date	Temperature (F)
3/28/24	66
4/4/24	68.5
4/11/24	75
4/18/24	75
4/25/24	78

- As the temperature increases and we continue to turn contents, decomposition increases.



# TROUBLESHOOTING- OPEN BIN

## Pros

- Pretty robust array of worms and pill bugs (a good decomposition sign)
- Weekly aeration and turning gave us insight into what was going on throughout the bin
  - Ensure the materials were breaking down
  - Facilitating that nutrients, moisture, and organisms were well distributed
- Learning process

## Cons

- People mistake it as a trash bin
- Climate based
  - Visually assessing each week, given that the optimal moisture content is 40-60%
  - e.g., it rained one week, so we did not add water

# FINAL TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

- Use observational skills
- Cook and eat healthy food
- Tear brown contents and food scraps into smaller pieces
- Have mulch, a cork skew turner, and thermometer



**THANK YOU <3**

Meera Iyer and Veronica Maglonzo

Group 3: Backyard Bin (Geobin)