

Ask master composter and city staffer Sherrian Jones about her work and she might just tell you ...

it's in the bag

If you're trying to go green but all you feel is red with the frustration because of the cement-like soil compressed in your lawn, master composter Sherrian Jones can chip away at even the hardest of clay. As the City of Plano's Compost Marketing and Operations Manager, Jones sells Texas Pure, a line of locally produced compost blends.

"Compost helps break up the clay and builds oxygen into the soil so that the roots of plants can actually grow," she said. "It's not that clay isn't nutritious – it's very nutritious – but it's so tightly packed that nothing can develop. Compost aerates the soil and provides microorganisms and nutrients to ensure lovely landscapes. You don't have to work so hard, but it makes it look like you're working all the time!"

Jones has worked for the City of Plano managing the operations of compost since last October. "When the position came open, I couldn't wait," she said.



Sherrian Jones is the City of Plano's Compost Marketing and Operations Manager.

“I love the whole City of Plano’s philosophy about **recycling and living green**, so the job was just a natural fit for me.”



“It’s been a challenge because I’ve had to learn more sales and managing skills as opposed to soil and gardening skills, but my job is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and share gardening information.”

Jones meets with compost connoisseurs like architects, developers, and landscapers, and she also sells to budding gardeners in Collin County. “I am on the road a lot. I call whoever may need the product and provide them with advice and soil amendments. We sell products to the Texas Department of Transportation and the North Texas Toll Authority, and we deliver to residents in the five-member cities of Plano, Frisco, Allen, Richardson, and McKinney.”

Her job also entails giving composting and landscaping presentations to businesses. “ValleyCrest, for example, is one of our customers, and I introduce new products to them and visit with them on how we can make their landscaping business successful.”

She continued, “This is not just a job for me. It is something that I believe in and love to do. It’s something that you have to love. It’s a process to create compost.”

Texas Pure is created at the Regional Composting Facility spanning 50 acres off of FM-545 in Melissa. Formerly called Plano Pure, the name changed to Texas Pure to be inclusive of the five-member cities. “It’s through all of their contributions that we can create this wonderful compost, soil blend, top dressing, and mulch,” said Jones.

Because there are a host of factors that can impact your landscaping needs, Jones explained that her team “custom-tailors” soil blend. “If a developer or citizen wants a certain percentage of sand or soil-blend mix, we can do that.”

She suggests visiting www.texaspureproducts.com

where you plug in your garden, flower bed, or landscaping dimensions into a calculator, as well as how thick you want your product to be, and it will calculate how much compost you need. Customers can either pick it up at the Custer Road Facility, the Regional Composting Facility, or Jones’ team will deliver it to you. *There is a \$40 delivery charge.*



Road warrior – Keeping the brand before architects, landscapers and retailers means staying mobile.

Texas Pure products will be on display at the Live for Green Expo on April 12. Jones will be passing out bags of products and giving a presentation on composting. “Composting is the ultimate way to go green because you’re conserving moisture and building up the nutrient level of your soil. You’re building your own little oasis and creating plants that will give off oxygen into the air.

Composting reduces water runoff and storm-water pollution, too.”

Jones has lived in Murphy for five years but gardening brought her to Plano. “I’ve always been a gardener. I love doing it. There’s nothing I’d rather do than play in the dirt!” she laughed. “I love the whole City of Plano’s philosophy about recycling and living green, so the job was just a natural fit for me.”

Jones received her master composter certification through the City of Plano last year and volunteered at the Parkway Service Center and the Environmental Discovery Garden. To become a master composter, participants volunteer 40 hours over a 12-month period in compost-related outreach programs.

Jones is very involved with the Collin County Master Gardeners, too. “They work in part with A&M University and they promote earth-kind growing and all types of organic gardening with either adaptive or native variety plants. Anything and everything to do with gardening in Texas, you can learn through a master gardener.”

When she’s not on the road ... or playing in the dirt ... Jones offices at both the Custer and Ridgeview facilities and at the Plano Parkway location marketing and selling Texas Pure. “I love my job. I mean I truly enjoy sharing gardening knowledge with people.”

Custer Road Facility

9901 Custer Road (at Ridgeview)
Plano, TX 75025
972-769-4150
Mon. - Sat., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Regional Composting Facility

5304 Highway 545
Melissa, TX 75454
972-838-9218
Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.