Paper Plates Make Good Fertilizer



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ANSWER — Joanne Diller, Dillsburg, wanted a candy roll recipe called Chacona Candy Roll. Thanks to Laurie Donaldson, Stewartstown, for sending a recipe.

- Chacona Candy Roll
- Boil to 238 degrees:
- 3 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- Stir in:
 - 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup chopped dates

When cool enough to handle, use buttered hands to form into roll. Wrap roll in foil, chill, and slice later.

BELTSVILLE, Md. — Toss on a compost pile some used paper plates from a cafeteria. Add old golf tees, leaves, newspapers, and chicken litter.

What comes from this mix is fertilizer that's ideal for growing spinach, corn, peppers and oats, said Donald D. Kaufman of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He's seen the results while working as a visiting scientist at the Rodale Insitute Research Center's organic farm in Kutztown, Pa.

Kaufman says it make sense to build compost piles rather than trash piles that keep filling landfills. He and other researchers

ANSWER — L. Rapp, Easton, wanted a recipe for Montgomery Pie with a lemon bottom not molasses. Thanks to Elizabeth Seibert, Fredericksburg, for sending a recipe. Lemon Montgomery Pie

Syrup:

- 1/2 cup molasses
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup water
- Juice and rind of 1 lemon
- Cake batter:
- ⅔ cup sugar
- ¼ cup shortening
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1% cups flour
- % cup sour milk

Mix well. Pour syrup into 9-inch unbaked pie shell. Spread cake batter over syrup. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes.

want to be sure that what's composted will degrade and be environmentally safe.

At the Rodale farm last summer, the scientista tried composting knives, forks and spoons made from a starch-based plastic substitute. They found the utensils wouldn't decompose fast enough. "But the golf tees of a starch-based plastic disappeared completely," he said.

A few items can be recycled twice, such as newspaper used once as bedding for Rodale's dairy cows and then as compost material, said Kaufman, a microbiologist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

He is the latest in a string of ARS scientists at Rodale, stretching back continuously for 13 years. Before being stationed at Rodale four days a week, Kaufman was research leader of the Soil-Microbial Systems Laboratory at the ARS Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center.

