

### **Marsh Grass ~ Huge benefits of incorporating marsh grass debris in composting**

Freshwater marsh grass debris can be an effective additive to composting hurricane wood waste ground or chipped piles. As marsh grass is almost completely water, it provides a natural moistening agent to composting, and at the same time, accelerating the natural process of decomposition.

According to Bill Carney, Ph.D., Coordinator of the L.S.U. Ag Center, Research and Extension, W.A. Callegari Environmental Center, utilization of this freshwater marsh grass in the composting process in a 2:1 ratio will result in the most effective management of this debris which is extremely difficult to burn, conserve landfill space pursuant to our statutory mandate, and synergistically employ both debris streams for the public good in an environmentally sound manner. Increased salt content due to storm surge may affect its final use as a soil amendment after composting. DEQ is attempting to develop a simplistic field test to determine appropriate salinity level for composting.