

Composting 101: Nature's way of creating Soil!



Composting needs YOU to help guide Nature's Process



WHY COMPOST?

Reduces your kitchen and yard waste
Feeds your gardens and lawns with necessary nutrients and organic matter
Improves soil structure that holds moisture when it's hot and dry
Increases plant strength and resilience to unwanted bugs and pests

It's fun to do—it's like magic!

8 Simple Steps to Easy and Fun Composting:

- 1) *Select a location near your garden in a well drained, partially shaded area.*
- 2) *Build a structure out of wood pallets or snow fencing to hold in the compost and keep out little critters. Fully enclosing the compost is not necessary.*
- 3) *Collect organic material that is living/**GREEN**/Nitrogen and dead/**BROWN**/Carbon- the smaller the start material the quicker it will break down and decompose.*

BROWNS/Carbon

leaves
straw
peanut shells
shredded cardboard
shredded paper-avoid printed
small wood chip or large shavings

GREENS/Nitrogen

food scrapes- fruits & vegies(NO dairy, meat, bones)
lakeweeds
fresh grass clippings – No weeds with seeds!
garden clippings
clover
alfalfa

- 4) *MIX 2 parts of **BROWN** to 1 part **GREEN** (example: 2 buckets of leaves to 1 bucket food scraps)*
- 5) *MIX in 10% soil from your garden or yard (10% of brown and green mixture each time when new mix is added) (EARTH)*
- 6) *Keep everything **MOIST**, but not **Wet** (like a wet sponge that drips NO water when squeezed) (WATER)*
- 7) ***TURN** the pile with a fork or shovel each time new material is added to bring aeration. (AIR)*
- 8) ***COVER** with a breathable, water resistant tarp or blanket to keep moisture in and rain out. If your mix is balanced it will heat up slightly, which are the micro-organisms at work! (FIRE)*

Q: What if my pile is very stinky?

A: It is too **WET** and too **GREEN**- give the pile **AIR** by **TURNING** and/or Add **BROWN** material

Q: What if my pile is very slow to decompose?

A: It may be too **BROWN** and **DRY**. Add **GREEN** and **Water** if necessary. Turn more often. Use smaller sized resources.



HAPPY COMPOSTING!

