

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING TOGETHER

Breaking Down to the Basics

WHAT IS COMPOST?

A soil amendment created when organic matter is broken down by bacteria, fungi, and other small organisms.

ADD BALANCED LEVELS OF GREENS & BROWNS.

YES





FOOD SCRAPS WEEDS WOOD CHIPS CARDBOARD

MANURE GRASS CLIPPINGS NEWSPAPER LEAVES

WHY USE COMPOST?

Improve soil structure, add minerals, and nutrients to soil, grow healthier plants. Boost water holding capacity.

NO





POISONOUS PLANTS TRASH / METAL / PLASTIC MEAT / DAIRY / FAT / OIL PET WASTE

DISEASE-INFECTED PLANTS GARDEN PESTS PLANTS WITH PESTICIDES PLANTS WITH RUNNERS

HOW TO BUILD A COMPOST PILE

- Add at least 1 cubic yard of material.
- Mix browns and greens (approx. 50/50%).
- Cut material to 2 inches for all dimensions.
- Water the pile regularly.
- Add a scoop of finished compost.



HOW TO MANAGE A PILE

- Monitor the pile for heat and moisture levels.
- Turn the pile every few weeks. Move material from the outside to the inside of the pile.
- Water as needed, so the pile is moist, but not soaked.
- Add more browns and greens until full.

WHEN IS THE COMPOST DONE?

- No original materials are visible, the temperature cools, worms and insects re-enter, it smells earthy and looks dark.

USING COMPOST

- Use compost screen to make finer texture compost.
- Return any large pieces of material to a new compost pile.
- Compost can be dug or tilled into soil, or used as a mulch.