



What can be composted?

YES

For best results add equal weights of Green & Brown materials

Green  (nitrogen) + **Brown**  (carbon)

- grass clippings
- leaves
- weeds / garden debris
- small brush, twigs
- wood ash (*small amounts*)
- Sawdust / wood chips (*small amounts*)
- egg shells
- coffee grounds
- hay
- manure from herbivores (plant eaters)
- paper, cardboard
- fur, hair, natural fibers & feathers
- food scraps - only if buried in pile



potash



calcium



What can Not be Composted?

NO

- meat, bones, fat
- dairy products
- oils - cooking & salad
- whole branches, logs
- pet or human waste
- charcoal briquette ash
- sawdust from treated wood
- diseased plants (unless fast composted)
- persistent weeds (quack grass)
- thorny branches

FAST TRACK COMPOST

**1st Make a thin layer of coarse organic material
(sticks, corn stalks) ----layer is optional**

**2nd Layer approx. equal weights
of brown (carbon) & green (nitrogen) yard materials
.... Water each layer as pile is built
.... Finish off pile with brown layer of dried plant material**

Hint ----- Chopping materials up first will speed up composting.
Use a lawnmower, shredder or machete.

Optional--- Some recipes add an inch of soil or finished compost
after each layer of brown and green. This will add
extra microorganisms but is not necessary. There are
enough microbes already present on yard materials to
inoculate the pile.

3rd... Turn pile every week or two to add Oxygen

**4th ...Water layers of pile as it's turned.
Keep pile damp as a wrung out sponge.**

<p>Finished compost will take between 6 wk. and 12 months, depending on how often you turn it and water it to keep the pile moist. Mixing equal weights of brown and green yard materials is also important for fast compost</p>

LAID BACK / NO TURN COMPOSTING

**1st Make a thin layer of coarse organic material
(sticks, corn stalks) ----layer is optional**

2nd Add your yard materials as they accumulate

**3rd Water the pile as you build it. Keep as moist as
a wrung-out sponge.**

4th ... Turn pile occasionally or not at all

Some finished compost will be ready in 12-24 months.

The bottom and center of the pile will be dark, crumbly ready-to-use compost. The uncomposted material can be used to start a new pile.

Troubleshooting Compost

PROBLEM	Observation	Solution
Too Dry	Dry or crackles to touch	Add water; keep pile as damp as a wrung out sponge
Too Wet	Soggy, may smell	Turn pile to add oxygen. Discontinue watering until pile just damp
All Green	Pile matted, especially if grass clippings used. Smells bad.	Turn pile and mix in approx. equal weights of brown materials
Meat, fat, salad oil	Pile matted, smells, attracting varmints	Remove meat, fat or materials with salad oil
Anaerobic	Smells bad	Needs oxygen, turn pile

Uses for Compost

- **Soil Additive** dig in or side-dress plants
- **Mulch** 2-3 inches around flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs
- **Mix in potting soil** see recipe below
- **Lawn Top Dressing** screen with 1/2 inch hardware cloth attached to wooden frame
- **Compost Tea** soak bag of compost in water. Use liquid to water yard, garden and houseplants.

Using Compost in Potting Soil

Recipe #1

2 parts good garden loam
1 part fine, sharp sand
1 part finished, mature compost (no more than 33%)

Recipe #2

2 parts soilless mix
1 part finished, mature compost (no more than 33%)

Recipe#3

1 part peat
1 part perlite
1 part compost (no more than 33%)