

COMPOSTING 101



What?

Composting is the decomposition of organic waste under controlled circumstances and in the presence of oxygen, until it has broken down completely into “compost” or “humus” – a dark, rich-smelling soil that is soft and crumbly, retains moisture, and slowly releases nutrients that plants need.

Why?

- Compost is the best natural fertilizer available.
- Organic materials make up 30% of the waste stream on average, and much of that could be composted rather than going into landfills.

How?

- Collect organic waste in a composter, compost bin, or pile.
- Chop all materials into small pieces.
- Make sure you have a mixture of “greens” and “browns.”
- Keep the pile moist.
- Turn the pile every few days to expose the contents to oxygen.
- Depending on temperature, you will have finished compost six weeks to a year after you stop adding new materials

Greens

Fruit and vegetable scraps
Spoiled produce
Grass clippings
Coffee and tea
Eggshells
Cut flowers
Prunings
Manure
Hair
Leather
Cotton
Pet fur
Nail Clippings

Maybe

Dairy
Fish
Break
Cooked food



Browns

Dry leaves
Straw (not hay)
Bills and junk mail
Newspaper
Cardboard
Sawdust
Wood ash
Pine needles

No

Plastic, metal, glass
Meat
Diseased plants
Seeds
Fats or oils
Cat manure
Human manure
Charcoal ash