SECRETS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPOSTING

All at once (hot)

Made in batches.

Ingredients: enough material to make a 3'x3'x3' pile or fill a bin (80 to 200 gallons) or 2-4 wheelbarrows of fresh greens and 2-4 of browns.

Steps:

1. Chop or shred coarse/ large materials with a pruner, machete, shovel, lawn mower, etc.

2. Layer greens and browns in 3 inch layers until bin is full. Moisten as you go or as needed. Thin layers for wet leaves / grass.

Greens	Browns	Avoid in Pile/Bin
• Fruits/vegetables • Garden debris • Grass clippings • Livestock Poo • Coffee grounds	• Dry fall leaves • Shredded paper • Straw • Livestock Bedding • Woody material	• Diseased plants • Insect-infested plants • Meat, fish, bones or fats • Cat or dog feces • Weeds gone to seed • Invasive weeds • Pot bellied pig or human waste

3. Monitor heat with compost thermometer (REOTEMP 20"). Your pile should heat up to 110° to 150° F.

4. Turn/stir after the pile starts to cool off (5-15 days). You can move your bin and re-fill it using a pitchfork or use an aerator tool, after turning, the temperature should rise again.

6. Turn/stir after the pile starts to cool off (5-15 days).

7. Let pile cure in pile/bin or move contents to a curing area (30 days).

Ready to use in about 60 days. When the compost is finished; it will be brown and crumbly and smell like rich earth.

Compost trouble shooting

Rotten smell	• Not enough air • Too much water	• Turn & fluff the pile • Mix in dry material
Pile won't heat up	• Too small • Too dry • Needs air • Too many browns (carbon)	• Add water and turn pile • Mix in green nitrogen-rich materials like manure, grass clippings or coffee grounds
Ammonia smell	• Too many greens (nitrogen)	• **Mix in brown high-carbon material such as shredded newspaper, straw or wood chips**

Add as you go (cool)

Made continuously.

Ingredients: fresh greens and browns as they are available.

Steps:

1. Dump kitchen scraps "greens" and cover with "browns"

2. Add leaves, garden trimmings, etc. whenever

3. Dig out compost at bottom of pile

4. Return undecomposed materials to bin/pile

Ready to use in about 6 to 12 months.

Compost tips - "Think SMART"

Size - To retain heat and moisture, and to make aeration easy, a 3'x3'x3' pile is ideal. Chopping into 1"-2" pieces speeds up decomposition. A few chunky things are ok; they provide room for air to get into the pile.

Moisture - The pile should be damp. The material should feel like a wrung out sponge. Too much moisture will force out air and suffocate beneficial organisms. Not enough moisture will slow decomposition.

Aeration

Turning or mixing the compost aerates the material and speeds up the decomposition process. You may want to add some additional material and/or moisten during each turn.

Ratio - Equal parts of greens and browns

Beneficial soil fungi and bacteria need carbon and nitrogen to grow well. Brown colored plant matter is generally high in carbon. The greens are rich in nitrogen.

Transform garbage to garden Soil