

"COOL & EASY" COMPOST

COOK TIME: Approximately 6 months - 2 years

TOOLS

- Pitchfork or shovel
- Equipment for chopping and shredding (e.g. hand pruners)
- Water hose with spray head
- Compost bin unit or pile location (ideally 1 cubic yard)
- Scrap of black plastic or compost bin lid to help retain moisture
- Compost sifter (optional)

INGREDIENTS

1 part nitrogen-rich material ("greens")

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Fresh grass clippings and yard trimmings

Water

2-3 parts carbon-rich material ("browns")

- Dried leaves and grass
- Hay and sticks
- Newspaper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a location for your bin or pile. This should be a place that is convenient for you, where it will receive moisture from either rain or a hose, and where it will receive at least some sunlight.
2. Collect your brown and green materials. Typically, brown materials like

leaves are ample in the fall, so have a bin/location to collect your browns until you're ready to assemble your compost pile. Green materials can be collected in a bin as they are generated in your kitchen or yard. Chop or shred any materials over 2 inches in size, especially if



INSTRUCTIONS (CONT.)

- adding large amounts.
3. Assemble your pile.
Combine your 2-3 parts brown material to one part greens.
 4. Bury food scraps at least 8-12 inches down from the top of the pile, under yard trimmings.
 5. If the pile has a tendency to dry out, cover the top with black plastic or compost bin lid. Add water as needed to keep the pile about as damp as a wrung-out sponge. Water will infiltrate the pile better if it is added in combination with turning.
 6. Continue to add green and brown materials as they are accumulated, being sure to keep a ratio of 2-3 parts brown to 1 part green materials.
 7. Periodically check the compost pile to monitor the decomposition process. If possible, use the shovel/pitchfork to turn the pile at least 2-3 times per season. Material at the bottom of the compost pile will look like dark, rich soil in approximately 6 months to 2 years. Time until compost is finished depends on the material composted and the amount of pile maintenance done.
 8. Harvest finished compost from the bottom of the pile and either directly apply compost to gardens or use a screen to filter out any larger unfinished materials. Unfinished materials can be returned to the compost pile. ☀

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