

Composting for Kids



FUN, EASY, NATURAL, AND GOOD



QUESTIONS FOR GARDENERS

What is composting?

Why should we compost?

How do we compost?



The Forest Floor



Nature recycles leaves and plants.

In a forest, leaves fall forming mulch that protects the soil.

Over time they decompose into nutrients that feed forest plants.

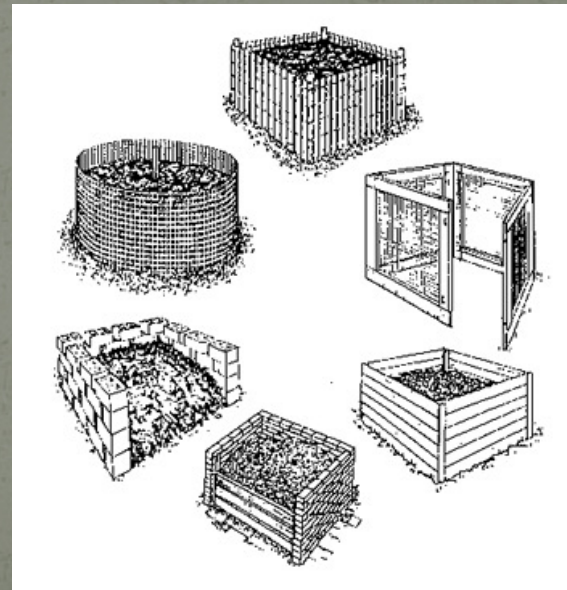
the COMPOST CYCLE



START TO FINISH: FOOD TO COMPOST



STEP 1: MAKE A COMPOST BIN



And put it in a good spot!

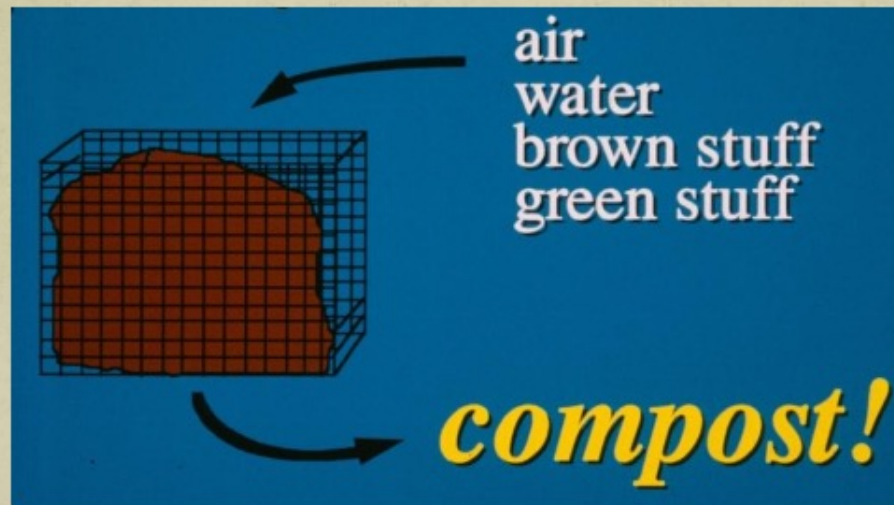
- Select a spot to set up your bin. It should be out of the way but convenient to reach with plenty of room to work around. Some good places would be near your garden or in a back corner of the yard. It is also a good idea to choose a location close to a source of water.



STEP 2: FOLLOW THIS RECIPE

SO MICRO-ORGANISMS AND CRITTERS CAN START MAKING COMPOST

Recipe Ingredients



RECIPE NOTES:

Brown Stuff and Green Stuff

(ORGANIC MATTER – otherwise known as things that have been alive and can decompose)

BROWN

- Brown stuff is BROWN: dead, dried plant parts like leaves, pine needles, or flower stalks.*
- Brown stuff is high in the element CARBON.

GREEN

- Green stuff is GREEN or OTHER FRESH COLORS: fresh, living parts like grass clippings, kitchen vegetable scraps, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grounds, and other plants.*
- Green stuff is high in the element NITROGEN.

RECIPE NOTES:

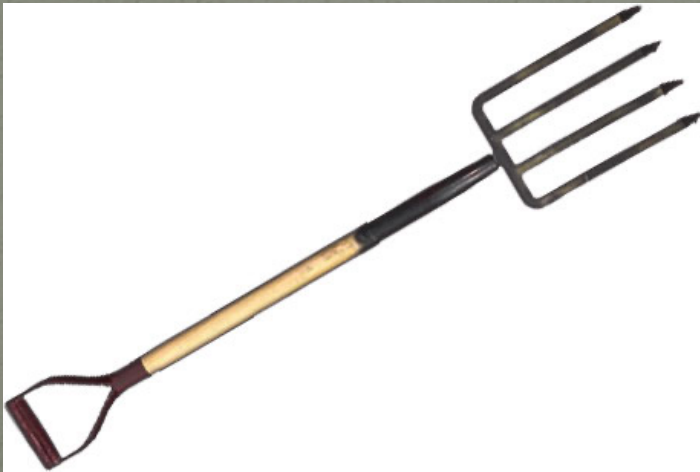
Amounts of Brown Stuff and Green Stuff to Get Things Decomposing

- YOU NEED MORE BROWN MATERIAL THAN GREEN MATERIAL
- THE RATIO IS ABOUT (2/3 BROWN TO 1/3 GREEN)

RECIPE NOTES:

Air and Water

- AIR: Aerate composting material by turning it with a pitchfork, shovel or special tool.
- WATER: Add water to keep composting material damp.



RECIPE NOTES:

Critters and Microbes Will Find Your Composting Material



RECIPE NOTES:

Keep a Stockpile of Leaves



STEP 3: TAKE CARE OF YOUR BIN

- AERATE BY TURNING OVER YOUR COMPOSTING MATERIAL WITH A PITCHFORK OR OTHER TOOL
- KEEP BROWN STUFF AVAILABLE
- YOU WON'T HAVE TROUBLE WITH GREEN STUFF (YOU EAT ALL THE TIME!)
- KEEP JUST RIGHT LEVEL OF MOISTURE (WATER)
- CHECK FOR DECOMPOSERS:
COMPOST CRITTERS

TIPS AND PROBLEMS

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- CHOP GREEN AND BROWN INGREDIENTS INTO SMALLER PIECES
- CHOOSE A SUNNY LOCATION
- BUILD YOUR BIN BIG ENOUGH (4X4X4 FEET)

PROBLEMS

- WINTER TEMPERATURE
- TOO MUCH RAIN
- TOO LITTLE RAIN
- NOT ENOUGH BROWN STUFF

HOT STUFF: BIG SCALE COMPOSTING



TAKE ACTION: SCHOOL COMPOSTING



MAKE A WORM BIN!



HAPPY COMPOSTING!

