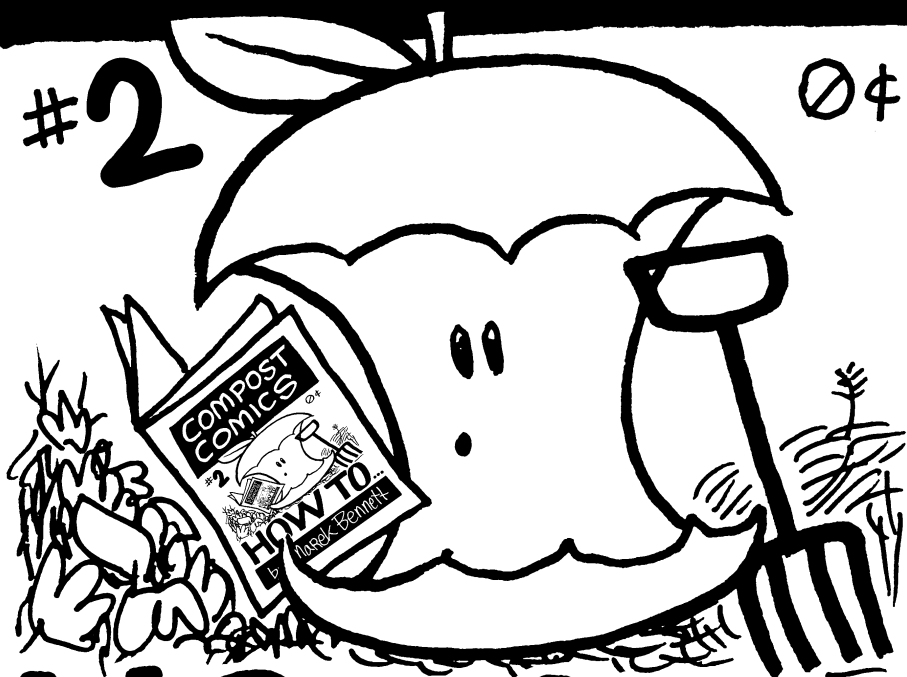


COMPOST COMICS

#2

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HOW TO...

by Marek Bennett

1 COLLECT COMPOST MATERIALS:

"GREENS" NITROGEN-RICH KITCHEN SCRAPS



FRUITS &
VEGETABLES



COFFEE
GROUNDS + FILTER
PAPERS... ETC.



CLOSED
CONTAINER

"BROWNS" CARBON-RICH YARD SCRAPS



LEAVES, TWIGS, etc.



SHREDDED PAPER, etc.



outdoor
STORAGE
PILE

2 SET UP...

SITE:

IN SUN or PARTIAL SHADE

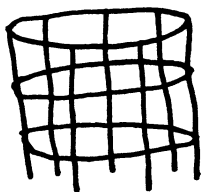
EASY ACCESS
(year-round)

H₂O
SOURCE

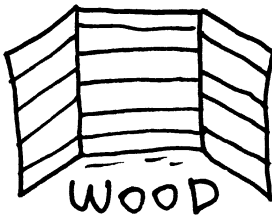
OUT OF
THE WAY

GOOD DRAINAGE
(not too wet)

BINS:



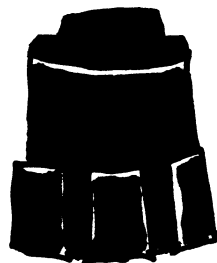
WIRE



WOOD



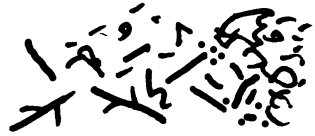
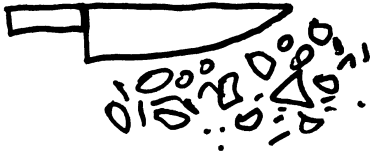
TUMBLER



ENCLOSED

3 PREPARE COMPOST MATERIALS:

CHOP GREENS



BREAK BROWNS

SMALL BITS

→ MIX BETTER

→ BREAK DOWN FASTER

WHEN ADDING TO YOUR PILE:

MIX:

1 PART GREENS

+

WITH:

2-3 PARTS BROWNS



— adds —

(N) NITROGEN
to heat up pile!



— adds —

(C) Carbon
(O) Oxygen

4 BUILD YOUR PILE:

Lay down a 4-6" DEEP FOUNDATION LAYER of bulky BROWNS.



Each time you add GREENS..

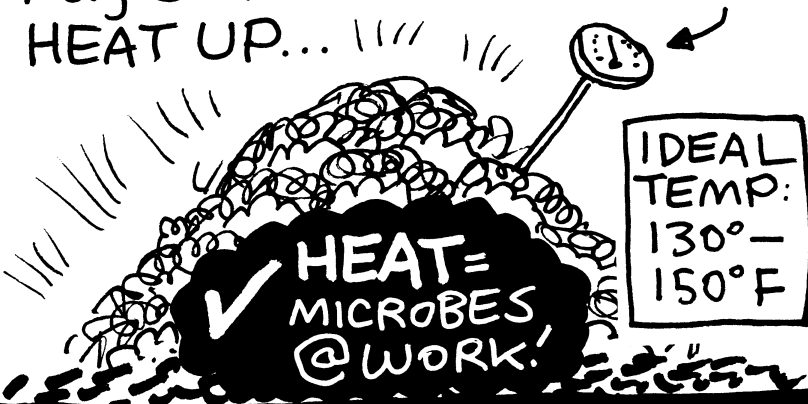


cover them with BROWNS...



As your pile GROWS, it may start to HEAT UP...

(You can check the temperature w/a COMPOST THERMOMETER.)



IDEAL TEMP:
130° -
150° F

5 MAINTAIN YOUR PILE:

STIR with a
GARDEN FORK

EDGE
to
CENTER



IDEAL MOISTURE:
= AS WET AS A
WRUNG TOWEL.

TOO DRY?
Add WATER
& STIR.



TOO WET?
STIR IN
BROWNS.



NO HEAT?
STIR IN
GREENS.



**NO VISIBLE
FOOD SCRAPS?**
→ IT'S DONE!

(Usually takes
3-5 months)

6 HARVEST YOUR COMPOST!

HOW TO TELL WHEN YOUR PILE IS READY:

NO MORE HEAT

NO VISIBLE FOOD SCRAPS

PILE HAS SHRUNK TO 1/3 SIZE!

SMELLS LIKE FRESH SOIL

DARK LOOSE CRUMBLY

ALLOW PILE to CURE 4+ WEEKS



...then SHARE with your PLANTS!

6 BASIC STEPS to ACTIVATE YOUR COMPOST POWERS!



SOURCES: www.EPA.gov www.uvlsrpc.org