

6 HARVEST YOUR COMPOST!

HOW TO TELL WHEN YOUR PILE IS READY:

- PILE HAS SHRUNK TO 1/3 SIZE!
- NO MORE HEAT
- SMELLS LIKE FRESH SOIL
- NO VISIBLE FOOD SCRAPS
- DARK, LOOSE CRUMBLY

ALLOW PILE TO CURE 4+ WEEKS

then SHARE with your PLANTS!

5 MAINTAIN YOUR PILE:

STIR with a GARDEN FORK EDGE to CENTER

IDEAL MOISTURE: = AS WET as a WRUNG TOWEL.

TOO DRY? ADD WATER & STR. BROWNS

TOO WET? STIR IN BROWNS

NO HEAT? NO VISIBLE FOOD SCRAPS? → IT'S DONE! (usually takes 3-5 months)

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

HEAT = MICROBES @ WORK

3 PREPARE COMPOST MATERIALS:

SMALL → MIX BETTER > BREAK DOWN FASTER

CHOP GREENS

BREAK BROWNS

MIX: 1 PART GREENS + 2-3 PARTS BROWNS

WITH: NITROGEN (to heat up pile!) + Carbon + oxygen

1-Sheet Mini-Comic folding instructions @: www.MarekBennett.com/1sheet

6 BASIC STEPS to ACTIVATE your COMPOST POWERS!

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

More COMPOST COMICS @: www.MarekBennett.com/compost

COMPOST COMICS

#2 HOW TO...

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1 COLLECT COMPOST MATERIALS:

"GREENS" NITROGEN-RICH KITCHEN SCRAPS

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

COFFEE GROUNDS + FILTER PAPERS... ETC.

SCRAPS

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)
- OUT OF THE WAY
- H₂O SOURCE
- GOOD DRAINAGE (not too wet)

BINS:

- WIRE
- WOOD
- TUMBLER
- ENCLOSED

WHAT TO COMPOST! IN YOUR BACKYARD PILE!



"GREENS" = RICH IN NITROGEN (+) "BROWNS" = RICH IN CARBON



FOOD & VEGETABLE SCRAPS



COFFEE GROUNDS (& paper filters)



PAPER TEABAGS (No staples)



EGGSHELLS (Crushed)



GRASS CLIPPINGS & YARD TRIM



DRY LEAVES



PLANT STALKS & TWIGS



SHREDDED PAPER (Non-glossy, non-color)



SHREDDED CARDBOARD (No wax, tape, glue)



UNTREATED WOOD CHIPS & SAWDUST

...+WHAT TO AVOID!



TREATED / PAINTED WOOD



PRODUCE STICKERS



DISEASED / TREATED PLANTS



"COMPOSTABLE" FOODWARE



CAT LITTER / PET WASTE



DRYER LINT



MEAT, FISH, BONES



CHEESE & DAIRY



FATS & OILS



COOKED FOOD



WEEDS w/ SEEDS

SMALL AMOUNTS = OKAY, as long as your pile heats up over 131°F for 3+ days: