

WHAT DOES COMPOSTING DO?

1. It allows materials to be returned to the earth and to become nourishment for our soil and thus for garden plants.
2. It provides food for soil bacteria that promote chemical processes to help release mineral nutrients from the soil so they can be used by plants.
3. It provides food for earthworms, ants, beetles, millipedes and pill bugs, which in turn process organic matter and expel rich poop to help nourish the soil.
4. It uses items that would otherwise end up in landfills to improve the earth instead of making more garbage.
5. By encouraging litter critters and earthworms, it provides better soil drainage and more balanced moisture to plants. Compost needs water, not too much or not too little. Humans might need to add water to the compost pile in times of drought or cover the pile in cold, wet winters just as we do gardens.
6. It enables fine, rich compost to be used at the end of the composting process to promote better soil texture and hardier, healthier plants with more disease resistance.

For more information, go to www.gsucc.org/composting

COMPOST HAPPENS!



Mother Nature does not make trash.

Composting occurs wherever dead plant material is allowed to pile up or carpet the ground, like on forest floors.

God's Creation is still speaking. God's organisms – plants, animals, microbes – multiply, die and return to the earth to nourish future generations. God's plan has no landfills or garbage dumps.

Humans have learned how to make compost happen faster to enrich their garden soil.


Gardeners and farmers have learned that adding green and brown materials in layers to their compost bin or pile can accelerate the composting process.

Layer 2-3 inches of moist greens, then add 2-3 inches of brown materials. It's good to mix layers with a pitchfork or other turning device once a week or once a month. Not turning at all will work but turning the pile makes useable compost faster and prevents odors from developing. It is good to keep the pile moist, but not soggy.



Moist, green materials to add: vegetable and fruit scraps and peelings, grass clippings, freshly pulled weeds without seeds, rotted manure (not dog, cat

or human!), coffee grounds and filters, tea bags or leaves, crushed eggshells (rinse if storing in containers on counter to avoid odor), and green trimmings from non-woody plants.

Adding a spadeful of soil or old compost now and then will introduce necessary organisms. 

Dry, brown materials to add:

fall leaves, newspaper and office paper (shredded is best, but not essential), straw, hay, sawdust, twigs less than ¼ inch in diameter, wood ashes and chips, bark, dryer lint, cardboard egg cartons, and cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towel rolls.



Items to Avoid

Don't compost meat, bones, dairy products, eggs, or grease/fats/oils, as these can attract rodents. Don't compost diseased plants or weeds with seeds. Avoid corn cobs and melon rinds, unless cut into finer pieces that will compost faster. No to styrofoam and charcoal ashes. Plants treated with pesticides should be avoided. Agrichemicals degrade at varying rates; if persistent, they make compost harmful for your garden. Glossy, heavy or colored paper should be recycled, not composted.

