

Get Ready for Spring – Compost for Perfect Soil

Composting is a perfect opportunity to “Give Back to the Earth”

The rich, healthy soil will nourish your lawn or garden. Here are some do's and don'ts to consider for backyard composting success.

Why Compost?

Finished compost is a free soil amendment and fertilizer for the garden. It is mild and won't burn plants like chemical fertilizers. By adding compost you'll improve the overall texture of your soil enabling it to retain and drain water better.

Choose a Compost Bin

Treehugger.com has short videos for DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Compost Bins to quickly and easily build your own; it also features three commercially available compost bins.



Compost Bins as Pets...(Say what!?)

Think of your compost bin as a pet. This will do two things: it will help you see it as a living thing that shouldn't be neglected, and teach you to 'feed' it a **balanced diet**. There are two main types of organic materials you can feed your compost bin: greens and browns. Greens are high in nitrogen and described as 'wet.' Browns are described as 'dry' materials and are high in carbon. When feeding your compost bin try to maintain a balance of 50% greens and 50% browns by weight. Since greens are typically heavier, you should add 2 to 3 buckets of browns for every bucket of greens you add.

Green Materials to Compost: Vegetable and fruit scraps; Coffee grounds and filters; Tea bags and leaves; Fresh grass clippings; Plant trimmings from your garden; Houseplants.

Brown Materials to Compost: Dry leaves; Straw and dry hay; Woodchips and sawdust from untreated wood; Dried grass clippings, shredded paper; Egg and nut shells; Hair and animal fur; Paper, shredded newspaper (printed with soy ink to be safe), paper towels and paper tubes.

DO NOT COMPOST!

Meat. Fish. Eggs. Dairy products. Oily foods or grease. Bones. Cat and dog waste. Diseased plants and seeds of weedy plants. Anything treated with pesticides.

More Composting Tips

Chop your materials into small pieces, which will break down faster. Always cover your layer of green material with a layer of brown material to cut down on flies and mask any odors. If you want fine compost, run over it with a mulching lawn mower. When composting whole plants remove seed heads and seed pods. Avoid adding roots of plants to your compost pile that could generate a whole new plant.

Thanks to: www.treehugger.com for this article. Get more handy gardening ideas and tips online for how you can be kind to the environment.