

Composting - Nature's Way of Recycling

By recycling the organic waste created by your household into compost, it allows you to return badly needed organic matter to your soil. In this way, we participate in nature's cycle, and cut down on garbage going into burgeoning landfills. And, unlike some fertilizers, compost will not run off your yard and pollute Palm Bay's canals, ponds and waterways.

You can make compost by mixing and decomposing organic matter made from leaves, grass clippings, wood chips and fruit and vegetable scraps.

Recipe for Easy Compost:

- Put different yard trimmings such as leaves and grass clippings in a bin or pile. You should have a mix of green material and brown material. Add water so the pile is slightly damp. "Turn" the pile at least once a month. The pile should reach a temperature of 130 to 160 degrees and will be ready in 6 to 9 months. The more frequently you turn the pile, the faster your compost will be ready.
- And fruit and vegetable scraps as generated. Cover the new kitchen scraps with leaves or bury them in the pile. If the pile dries out, add more water to keep it damp.
- After 12 to 16 months, most of the material at the bottom of the pile will be dark, rich sweet-smelling compost. Sift or sort out any large, un-decomposed materials.
 - Sprinkle on your yard and garden!

What Can I Compost?

- Grass Clippings
- Yard Trimmings (old plants, wilted flowers, small prunings)
- Leaves
- Vegetable & Fruit Scraps
- Coffee Grounds
- Tea Leaves
- Wood Chips
- Shredded Paper (low-grade that is not recyclable)

What Should I Avoid Composting?

- Meat, Fish and Poultry (including bones)
- Food Sauces
- Fats, Grease, and Oils
- Dairy Products
- Pet Feces
- Invasive Weeds
- Treated Wood (or material containing preservatives/toxins)
- Ashes and charcoal
- Non-organics (plastic, metal, glass, etc.)