

Compost: What Goes in?

By Elizabeth Campbell

Compost Green Nitrogen Materials:

- Grass clippings, leaves
- Old flowers, plants
- Weeds (not in seed stage)
- Veggie and fruit scraps
- Seaweed
- Livestock manure
- Coffee grounds/filters
- Tea bags
- Eggshells

Dry Brown Carbon materials:

- Untreated wood ash
- Straw
- Dried leaves, twigs
- Aged wood chips/sawdust
- Shredded cardboard and paper

Do NOT compost:

- Meat, fish, fat of any kind
- Bones
- Diseased plant material
- Treated wood, boards, tin, glass, plastic
- Waxy leaved plants
- Pernicious weeds; morning glory, buttercup, quack grass
- Cat, dog, pig manures
- Weeds in seed stage
- Untreated wood ash
- Straw
- Dried leaves, twigs
- Aged wood chips/sawdust
- Shredded cardboard and paper

* When adding kitchen waste, you **MUST** bury it in the center of the pile and cover it completely with compost to prevent attracting pests!

If pile stinks: Increase oxygen by turning more often and adding more dry brown carbon material throughout.

If the pile is not getting hot: Make sure it is large enough (3 cubic feet), it might need more green nitrogenous material added and/or could need to be lightly misted throughout, turned and covered.

Try to use about 3 times the amount of dry brown materials (dry leaves, shredded cardboard) to each 1 part of green materials (kitchen scraps, grass clippings). The smaller the pieces, the faster they will break down. Lightly mist the pile, while turning, to keep it the consistency of a squeezed sponge. Do not over water! Keep pile covered to retain heat.