

# COMPOSTING BASICS



## Why should I compost?

- Composting provides a new use for your kitchen scraps and lawn litter, reducing the waste going to landfills.
- It returns nutrients and substrate to your garden, reducing the need to buy soil and fertilizers.

## How do I compost?

To begin composting you must become acquainted with 'greens' and 'browns'.

**Greens** are materials rich in nitrogen - an essential component for growth. Common examples are food scraps or fresh grass clippings.

**Browns** are materials rich in carbon. Common examples are uninked cardboard or dead plant matter such as dried leaves.

**A healthy compost has a ratio of 2 : 1 or 3 : 1, brown to green by volume.**

## Important Tips:

- Give your compost plenty of air, so mix regularly. This prevents rot and encourages
- Keep your compost moist, but not too wet. If it is too wet it will begin to rot.
- Chop up your materials to increase surface area, and therefore the rate of decomposition.
- Avoid adding meat, dairy, and oily food scraps as they attract pests and tend to rot.

Your compost should smell like soil. If it begins to smell bad, add more greens and mix thoroughly!

**COMPOSTING IS NATURE'S WAY OF RECYCLING!**