

A Quick Reference for Composting

Lake County Factsheet #HYG2402

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What is composting & why should I compost?

Composting is the breakdown of organic materials (anything that was a plant) by bacteria, fungi, worms and other organisms.

It happens naturally and in controlled conditions. Twenty percent or more of household waste is organic materials that you can compost and use as a soil amendment instead of sending it to the landfill.

Compost helps your soil hold water and nutrients helping to reduce the need for irrigation and fertilizer. Your plants will be healthier and more disease resistant. Plus, it is environmentally friendly!

Is it hard to compost?

Nope – cut up plant materials (best size is less than 2-3”), mix in a container or pile up the plant materials, add water & air, stir or turn weekly and wait!

What can I compost? What should not be composted?

Brown carbon-rich materials	Green nitrogen-rich materials	Do NOT Compost
Shredded branches & landscape trimmings	Grass Clippings	Meat, fish, egg or poultry scraps
Shredded uncolored paper, cardboard, paper plates, paper towels & napkins	Vegetable & fruit scraps	Dairy products
Pine needles, old leaves, & wood chips	Coffee Grounds (even the paper filter)	Fats, grease, lard, or oils
Rice & grains	Manure (from plant-eating animals like horses, cows, rabbits)	Coal or charcoal ash
Eggshells (crushed)	Tea bags (not synthetic bags)	Diseased or insect-ridden plants
Stale bread, pitas, tortillas, crackers, & cereals	Old herbs	Cat or dog wastes
Dead houseplants & their soil	Non-dairy milk alternatives	

For Additional Information on This Topic Please Visit:

Composting, Solutions for Your Life:

https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/archive/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/compost.shtml

Compost Tips for the Home Gardener. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ep323>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lake/>