HOW TO: BASIC COMPOSTING

Composting is NATURE's way to recycle!
Use your garden cuttings, kitchen scraps, a little air, a little water and natural decomposition to create healthy fertile soil! It's easy - COMPOST HAPPENS!

**Ingredients**
- 50% Greens - Nitrogen
- 50% Browns - Carbon
- Air
- Water

**Directions**
- Construct a compost bin with wood, wire mesh, scrap pallets or a trash bin. (with drilled holes)
- The ideal size for a compost bin: 3 ft wide x 3 ft deep x 3 ft tall
- Layer your compost bin with equal parts BROWNS + GREENS
- Moist, but not too wet. Your compost should be WET like a runny sponge. NOTE: Too WET and the compost will smell. Too DRY and the pile will not decompose.
- Fix: Too WET? Add shredded news paper.
- Place your bin in a shady spot, so your compost doesn't get dried out.
- Make sure your compost has ample air flow.
- NOTE: Too little air causes the compost to smell like rotten eggs.
- Fix: Turn pile and add more BROWNS.

**ACTIVE COMPOST**
- Turn pile on a regular basis.
- Maintain proper moisture.
- Your pile will heat to 120-150°F when it no longer heats - stop turning and let cure for 2-3 weeks.
- Finished compost can be ready in ~12 weeks.

**PASSIVE COMPOST**
- Less labor intensive - but takes longer.
- Turn once per month and add water.
- Compost will take 6-18 months.

**COMPOST IS FINISHED** - when the contents turns dark brown and has a pleasant earthy aroma.

For BEST RESULTS: Screen Compost, return any remaining undecomposed pieces to the compost. Use finished compost and enjoy your healthy happy plants!

**THINGS TO COMPOST**

**GREENS - nitrogen / 50%**
- Kitchen scraps: fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, filters, teas, tea bags, bread and grains
- Fresh garden trimmings
- Fresh grass trimmings
- Pulled weeds (NO SEEDS)
- Cow, chicken, rabbit manure

**BROWNS - carbon / 50%**
- Dry woody material
- Wood chips, twigs, sawdust
- Paper: newspaper, shredded white paper, cardboard (NO GLOSSY PAPER)
- Dry leaves or grass
- Straw or hay

**DO NOT COMPOST**
- Meat, fish, bones, dairy products (they attract pests and create unsafe compost)
- Weeds with mature seeds (will spread weeds everywhere)
- Dog and cat manure (adds unsafe pathogens)
- Charcoal ashes
- Treated wood products

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