

What Can Be Composted?

For best results add equal weights of Green & Brown materials.
GREEN (nitrogen) + BROWN (carbon)

YES

- Grass clippings GREEN / BROWN
- Leaves GREEN / BROWN
- Weeds& Garden Debris GREEN / BROWN
- Small brush, twigs / BROWN
- Wood Ash potash
- Sawdust/Wood chips / BROWN
- Egg Shells calcium
- Coffee Grounds GREEN/
- Hay /BROWN
- Manure from herbivores GREEN/ (Plant eaters)
- Paper, Cardboard /BROWN
- Fur, Hair, Natural Fibers & Feathers GREEN/
- Food Scraps – only if buried in pile GREEN/

NO

- Meat, bones, fat
- Dairy Products
- Oils – cooking & salad
- Whole Branches, logs
- Pet or Human waste'
- Charcoal briquette ash
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Diseased Plants (unless fast composted)
- Persistent Weeds (quack grass)
- Thorny branches

Troubleshooting Compost

Problem	Observation	Solution
Too dry	Dry or crackles to touch	Add water: keep pile as damp as a wrung out sponge
Too wet	Soggy, may smell	Turn pile to add oxygen, discontinue watering until pile just damp
All Green	Pile matted, especially if grass clippings used, smells bad	Turn pile and mix in approximately equal weights of brown materials
Meat, fat, salad oil	Pile matted, smells, attracting varmints	Remove meat, fat or materials with salad oil
Anaerobic	Smells bad	Needs oxygen, turn pile

Handout available at:

<http://www.spuuf.org/socialaction.htm>