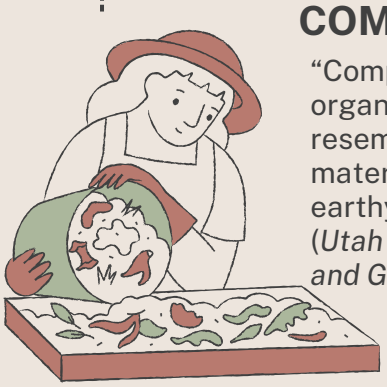
BACKYARD COMPOSTING QUICK GUIDE

WHAT IS COMPOST?



"Compost is decomposed organic matter that no longer resembles the original material. It looks and smells earthy, like rich garden soil" (*Utah State University Yard and Garden Extension).*

COMPOST INGREDIENTS

Inputs

- "Green" Materials (N)
- "Brown" Materials (C)
- Oxygen, Water

Outputs

- Heat, Water
- Carbon Dioxide
- Stable Organic Matter





BROWN (C) MATERIAL EXAMPLES

Wood shavings, dry twigs, dry leaves, hay, newspaper, egg cartons, wood chips, cardboard, shredded paper, straw, pinecones, sawdust.

GREEN (N) MATERIAL EXAMPLES

Fresh plant material, fruit or vegetable scraps, grass clippings, flowers, tea bags, coffee grounds/filter, manure, egg shells



KEY NOTES TO REMEMBER

Avoid meat, bone, or dairy products to mitigate odor and attract less pests. Frequently turn your compost pile to add oxygen. Add water as needed - the compost should be damp, not soaking. Optimal temp. is 110 - 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Composting sustainably utilizes garden waste and kitchen scraps by storing carbon and replacing organic matter. It is also a valuable soil amendment for healthy yards and gardens.

