

Backyard Composting

SVDN Community Garden
Program

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What is Composting

- Compost is a natural fertilizer and works as a soil amendment that can enrich and enhance the land.
- This is created during the natural process of organic material decomposition.

Why Should I Compost?

- It is Superior to chemical fertilizers, because it will not harm the plants or the groundwater.
- It will not cause chemical burn on the plants
- Save Money!
- Reduce wastes and pollution, for both the air and water.

How Can I get Started?

1. Investigate

- Read the brochure
- Look for online resources
 - www.greenactioncentre.ca

2. Inquire

Ask questions, find people who share the same ideas and visions

3. Obtain

Obtain a Composting Bin

4. Implement

Start the composting process

Compost Bins

- Buy or Build?
 - Save time or money?
- Types of Bins
 - Things to consider
- Advantages/Disadvantages

Types of Bins

- Garbage can bin
- Wire compost bin
- Single wood bin
- Wood Pallet bin
- Wood and wire bin
- Multi-bin composting system

Things to consider when choosing a Bin

- How much work will be needed in the composting process
- The location and space that you have available
- The amount of work & money you want to put into it.
- The volume of waste that you generate

Layering Compost Pile

- Always balance *greens* with *browns*
- The Ratio should be 1.3
- This type of layering helps with the prevention of odors and unwanted pests.

What are Greens & Browns?

- **Greens** are the wet materials, usually fresh, cooked, or canned.
- **Browns** are the dry materials, and can be found almost everywhere.

What can you Compost?

- Compostable Materials include:
 - Vegetables and fruit (fresh, cooked, or canned) coffee grounds, tea bags, garden waste, fresh grass etc.
 - Dry leaves, straw, sawdust, twigs, wood chips (untreated wood), dried grass clippings, shredded paper, napkins, tissue paper. Etc.
 - Other Materials: eggshells, wood ash (small amounts), plain rice, plain pasta, and bread

Do NOT compost these!

- Meat
- Fish
- Dairy Products
- Bones
- Metals

The Compost Process

- It should always be Damp
 - Not Wet- Add Air (Rotation/Turning)
 - When dry- Add Water
- During this process, microorganisms and insects are breaking down the organic material- these organisms need air and water! (Which is why compost bins need aeration)

When is the Compost Ready?

- When done, it can be used to fertilize plants, garden, and lawn.
- Compost Tea
- Attributes of “Well-done” Compost
 - Dark brown
 - Smells like earth
 - Crumbles in hand
 - No recognizable food content visible

Resources

- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/reduce-your-waste/compost-bin-options/>
- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/green-your-routine/compost-tea/>
- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/module/composting-2/composting-basics-and-getting-started/>
- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/reduce-your-waste/frequently-asked-questions-about-vermicomposting/>
- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/green-your-routine/winter-composting-to-layer-or-not-to-layer/>
- <https://greenactioncentre.ca/module/composting-2/research-links/>

Chanumpa Wakpa's Compost Bins

