

Composting Guide

Composting is defined as the biological degradation process of heterogeneous solid organic materials under controlled moist, self-heating, and aerobic conditions to obtain a stable material that can be used as an organic fertilizer.

In other words, it's how we can go about recycling and repurposing our green waste through the decomposition process in order to provide us with a rich fertilizer for our plants and soils!

Composting has been used for thousands of years, and it's been known that the Ancient Romans, Greeks, and other Middle Eastern civilizations practiced composting. They often used manure from animals, street sweepings, and other organic matter in their compost piles.

There are so many materials around us in today's world that can be used for composting, and it can be very simple to start composting at your own home. Hopefully this guide can give you a few ideas on starting your own composter!



Our new composting bin at the garden! We recycled pallets found on campus, as well as all green matter provided on campus grounds.

Weeds & clippings were mixed with local horse manure to begin the breakdown process!

There are many different types of composting structures that you can make, and you can be super creative as well! Composters can be made to look nice, be made to compost in as little time as possible, or be made to be moved around.

A composter should be built to suit your needs and reduce the amount of waste you produce. You can make your composting bin from wooden pallets, buckets, cinderblocks, or lots of other things. The main concern you need to be aware of is giving your composting bin air circulation and to mix around the materials regularly.

****Check out our website for more guides****

When composting, there is a lot of flexibility on what you can do. Be sure you follow some basic guidelines and important must-do's!

- Try to have a 50/50 amount of green and brown materials, while making sure it stays moist. The brown materials provide carbon, the green material provides nitrogen, and the moisture helps the breakdown.
- Start slow when composting, you can always add more as you go.
- Turn your compost pile every couple of weeks to help aerate the mix. This will help reduce odors and keep pests away!

Stuff to Use	Stuff to Avoid
• Leaves	• Meats
• Grass/plant clippings	• Cat/dog droppings
• Tea bags	• Large materials such as big logs or towels
• Coffee grounds	• Large amounts of grease or oil
• Fruit/veggie leftovers	• Toxic materials such as pesticides or diseased plants
• Eggshells	
• Hair clippings	
• Cow/horse/chicken manure	
• Shredded newspaper	
• Cardboard	
• Wood ashes	
• Wood chips	