

CSU ECO LEADERS PRESENTS

# COMPOST EDUCATION

## ANSWERING THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

WHY COMPOST?

WHAT DO I NEED TO COMPOST?

HOW DO I GET STARTED?



## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

### WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

Compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow! Food scraps and yard waste together currently make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away and should be composted instead.

## WHY COMPOST?

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING ANYWAY?

For starters, composting keeps food scraps and yard waste out of landfills where they not only take up space but they release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.



### The benefits of composting include:

- Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich nutrient-filled material.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint!

## WHAT DO I NEED TO COMPOST?

### IT IS AS SIMPLE AS 1,2,3!



1. Browns - This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs.
2. Greens - This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds.
3. Water - Having the right amount of water, greens, and browns is important for compost development.

# HOW TO COMPOST AT HOME

## BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND INDOOR COMPOSTING

There are many different ways to make a compost pile; EPA (The United States Environmental Protection Agency) has provided the following for general reference. Helpful tools include pitchforks, square-point shovels or machetes, and water hoses with a spray head. Regular mixing or turning of the compost and some water will help maintain the compost.

### Backyard Composting

- Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin.
- Add brown and green materials as they are collected, making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded.
- Moisten dry materials as they are added.
- Once your compost pile is established, mix grass clippings and green waste into the pile and bury fruit and vegetable waste under 10 inches of compost material.
- Optional: Cover top of compost with a tarp to keep it moist. When the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use. This usually takes anywhere between 2 months and 2 years.

### Indoor Composting

If you do not have space or an outdoor compost pile, you can compost materials indoors using a special type of bin, which you can buy at a local hardware store, gardening supplies store, or make yourself. Remember to tend your pile and keep track of what you throw in. A properly managed compost bin will not attract pests or rodents and will not smell bad. Your compost should be ready in two to five weeks.

### Backyard Composting Examples



### Indoor Composting Examples



For more information on Composting At Home, please visit:



**Composting At Home**  
Benefits and instructions about how to compost at home.  
[epa.gov](http://epa.gov)