

Backyard Composting



4 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Green and Brown Materials

"GREEN" MATERIALS ARE THOSE HIGHER IN NITROGEN

"BROWN" MATERIALS ARE THOSE HIGHER IN CARBON.

**YOU WILL NEED TO ADD EQUAL PARTS OF BOTH FOR A
HEALTHY COMPOST**

<i>Greens</i>	<i>Browns</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>-Fruit and Veggie Scraps</i><i>-Fresh grass clippings</i><i>-Fresh animal manure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>-Fallen leaves</i><i>-Straw</i><i>-Sawdust</i><i>-Dry grass clippings</i>

Surface Area

SURFACE AREA MATTERS! MATERIALS THAT ARE IN SMALLER SIZES ARE EASIER FOR COMPOST ORGANISMS TO DIGEST. YOU CAN HELP THE PROCESS BY USING A LAWNMOWER, MACHETE, FOOD PROCESSOR OR HAND PRUNER TO KICK START THE PROCESS.



Moisture

MOISTURE HELPS TO:

- 1) SOFTEN THE ORGANIC MATERIALS, WHICH MAKES THEM EASIER FOR MICROORGANISMS TO DIGEST**
- 2) IT SUPPLIES THOSE MICROORGANISMS WITH THE WATER THEY NEED TO SURVIVE**



MICROORGANISMS DO MOST OF THE WORK TO DECOMPOSE YOUR PILE, SO MAKING SURE THEY HAVE GOOD, MOIST LIVING CONDITIONS IS ESSENTIAL.

Air and Ventilation

**AIR PROVIDES OXYGEN TO THE MICROORGANISMS WHICH
ARE ESSENTIAL**

IT IS IMPORTANT TO:

- 1) START WITH A LAYER OF COARSE STICKS TO ALLOW AIR
FLOW AT THE GROUND LEVEL**
- 2) DO NOT USE THICK LAYERS OF MATERIALS**
- 3) PERIODICALLY WORK IN LAYERS OF ROUGH MATERIALS
LIKE TWIGS OR STALKS**
- 4) MIX LAYERS OF BROWN AND GREEN MATERIALS
TOGETHER**

**IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ACTIVELY AERATE YOUR PILE
WITH A PITCH FORK OR OLD SKI POLE REGULARLY.**