

# No Fuss Compost

Ingredients: Yard trimmings, water

Directions:

1. In a heap, hoop, or bin, layer your yard trimmings and kitchen scraps as they occur.
2. Water so compost is kept as wet as a wrung out sponge.

# FAST COMPOST

The fastest way to compost is by using the “hot” method. This requires frequent turning to get oxygen into the pile. Temperatures can reach 120-150 degrees, thus the weed seeds and pathogens are killed.

Ingredients: Yard trimming, kitchen scraps, water

Directions:

1. Alternate layers of mix fresh green with dry brown materials until your pile is about 3 feet by 3 feet.
2. Keep pile as moist as a wrung out sponge.
3. Turn the pile one to three times a week to give it the air it needs for fast composting.

The compost is ready when it has degraded into a rich, dark humus. This is usually 1-3 months when using the fast method.

# How to Use Finished Compost

Compost is ready when the materials are reduced to dark, rich humus. Compost can be added to the soil at any time to keep plants healthy. Here are the most common ways to use compost:

**Soil Amending.** Add to area prior to planting. Mix 4-6 inches of compost into newly cultivated areas or areas that you are planting new trees or shrubs.

**Mulching.** Spread 2-3 inches of compost over the soil around trees, shrubs, or plants. This will help suppress weeds, keep roots cool and moist, conserve water, prevent soil erosion, and add nutrients for your plants.

**Potting Mix.** Mixing one part sand, two parts compost and one part soil can make a potting mix. Mix well.

# COMPOSTING AT HOME:

# TURNING YOUR GARBAGE INTO GARDEN GOLD

Visit the Compost  
Demonstration Site at  
Brownwood's Recycling  
Center on FM 45



## WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is a form of partially decomposed organic matter similar in nature to the organic matter in the soil. It is a humus rich material that results from composting.

## WHY SHOULD I COMPOST?

Composting is an easy way to turn your landscape trimmings and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into a valuable soil amendment.

Compost makes the soil richer by contributing nutrients and beneficial life. Soil that is enriched with compost retains nutrients and moisture better and protects plants from diseases and pests. In addition, composting also decreases the amount of waste placed in the landfill.

Composting is *RECYCLING*

## WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

Do Compost:

Grass Clippings, Leaves, Shrub Prunings, Flowers, Weeds, Sawdust, Hair, Fruit and Vegetable Scraps, Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags, Dryer Lint, Eggshells.

Do **NOT** Compost:

Meat, Bones, Dairy Products, Fish, Greasy Foods, Dog or Cat Feces, Diseased Plants, Charcoal Ash.

### BASIC COMPOST RECIPES

The bugs, fungi, bacteria, and worms do most of the composting for you. Here is a recipe:

1. **CHOP** compostables. The smaller the pieces, the faster the decomposition.
2. **MIX** two thirds dry brown material (leaves, straw, shredded wood, paper) with one-third moist, green materials.
3. **ADD** water as you build your pile and maintain moisture to a wrung out sponge consistency. Proper moisture is essential to break down organic materials.

## COMPOST STRUCTURES

**HEAPS:** The lowest tech way to compost. Simply pile your materials and let it sit. If you turn it once in a while, it decomposes faster.

**HOOPS:** Usually made from chicken wire or fencing. Make a circular shape with the wire and secure the ends. Pile your materials into the bin.

**BINS:** Use wood or pallets to create a four-sided box. Space boards so air can circulate. You can also use wood frame with wire mesh.

**CINDER BLOCK:** Make a three-sided enclosure by laying the blocks in a staggered pattern.