

MAINTAINING A PRODUCTIVE COMPOST AREA

Toledo GROWs Best Practices— Tending a Garden

Best Mix:

The best mix of materials for your pile now, and as you add to it, is always two thirds brown matter to one third green matter. Always keep some brown materials handy and every time you toss some greens into the compost pile add some browns at the same time. (see the Toledo GROWs Basic Composting Tip Sheet for a detailed list)

Good Airflow and Moisture

The materials in your compost should be moist enough when you squeeze a handful it feels like a damp sponge.

If your pile smells bad it is too wet and not getting enough airflow. Add more browns, sticks, and twigs and turn the pile if you can. If your compost has a lid, leave it open for a few days in dry weather and try to poke some air holes down through the material.

If your pile looks and feels dry and your organic matter is not breaking down, your pile is too dry. Sprinkle in water slowly from the top down and turn the damp material on top into the middle of the pile if possible. Or you can poke some deep holes into the pile as you sprinkle the water on top.

Leaves for the Compost Pile:

For faster break down of dried leaves in your compost pile, run the leaves over with your lawn mower while collecting them in the lawn mower bag. Then you can easily transport and dump them into your compost pile. Do not use black walnut leaves - they have a small amount of toxin in them.

Use a variety of different types of leaves to avoid possible nutrient imbalances. Do not use leaves that tend to matt, stay wet or break down very slowly, such as ornamental pear leaves.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

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