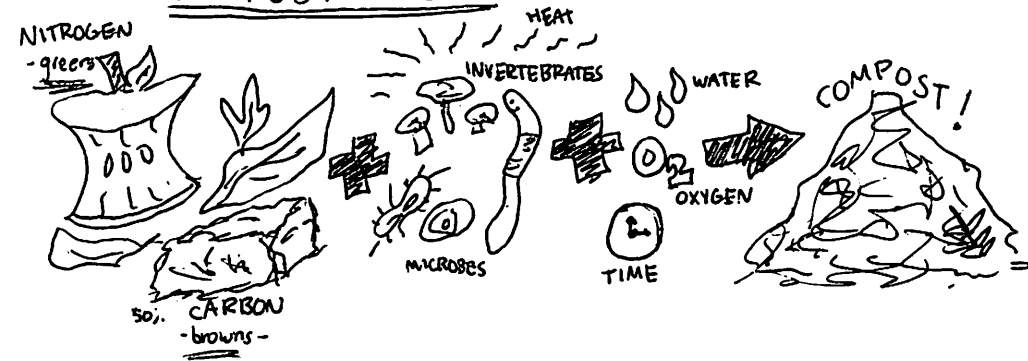


WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is decomposed organic matter. Organic matter is, in simple terms, things that were once alive (composed of carbon), including plants, animals, microbial, and fungal materials. Composting is a natural process of recycling organic material into a rich soil amendment we like to call "BLACK GOLD."

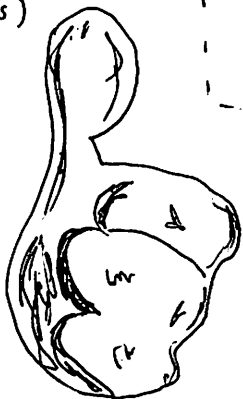
COMPOST RECIPE



- 50:50 volume ratio of carbon (browns): nitrogen (greens)
- needs to be moist like a wrung out sponge
- have open access to ground for microbes!

DO COMPOST

- YES. veggies + fruits
- YES. egg shells
- YES. coffee grounds + filters
- YES. tea bags (no staples)
- YES. yard clippings
- YES. wood chips
- YES. chicken manure
- YES. shredded newspaper (soy ink)
- YES. citrus peels



DO NOT COMPOST

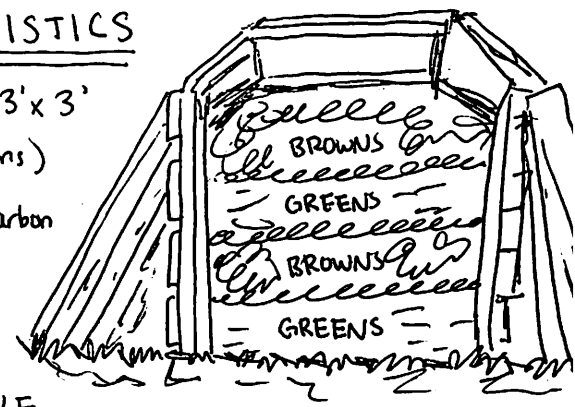
- NO. cooked foods + oils
- NO. meat
- NO. dairy products
- NO. toxic plants
- NO. plastic
- NO. feces

RULE OF THUMB:

Chop up the materials you are adding to the size of your thumb to speed up the decomposition process.

PILE BUILDING LOGISTICS

- Minimum volume for hot compost 3' x 3' x 3'
- layer nitrogen (greens) + carbon (browns)
- always cover your additions with carbon to deter pests + insulate pile



MAINTAINING YOUR PILE



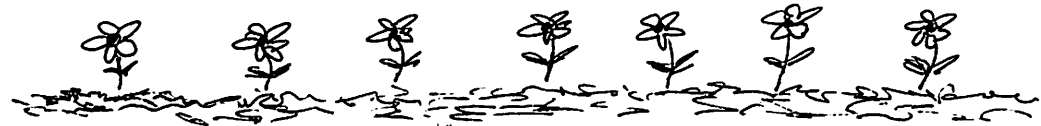
- turn often (every 1-2 weeks) to incorporate oxygen
- cover with a tarp when excess rain to keep nutrients from leaching out
- a pile that is curing should still be turned

USING YOUR COMPOST

Before you use it, you need to "cure" it for a few months to completely finish the decomposition process. Do not keep adding materials to this pile. Move your pile to cure somewhere else and start over!

Finished compost can be...

- used as a mulch
- mixed into soil
- made in "compost tea" with liquid excess
- given as a great gift to gardeners!



WHY COMPOST?

- improves soil structure and water holding capacity
- acts like a time released soil fertilizer
- increases the activity of beneficial organisms
- closes the loop
- diverts waste from the landfill

ABOUT CAMPUS CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND
PROJECT COMPOST

We are a student-run, student funded advocacy unit of the Associated Students of the University of California, Davis (ASUCD). We work to promote environmental awareness through different projects and discussions on campus and in the community. Project Compost is a hands-on part of CCE that encourages food waste reduction and compost education. Project Compost maintains a windrows compost pile at the Student Farm where our volunteers bring organic waste using our electric vehicle. We also host free composting workshops!



TO GET INVOLVED
AND

- FOR MORE INFORMATION -

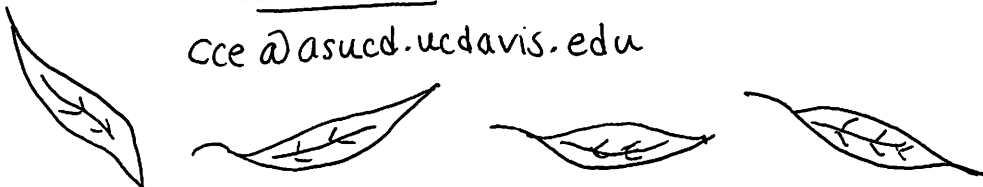
Come check us out in our office, the EcoClub (between the Silo and Rock Hall), or come to one of our weekly meetings.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

cce.ucdavis.edu

EMAIL US AT:

cce@asucd.ucdavis.edu



PROJECT
COMPOST'S

GUIDE TO COMPOST



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