

Good Choices for Composting:

- Food scraps such as fruits, vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, and nut shells.
- Paper products like shredded newspaper and cardboard.
- Sawdust and wood chips.
- Dryer or vacuum cleaner lint, hair, and fur.
- Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, and spent garden plants.
- Diseased and insect-infected plants.
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides.
- Dairy products, meat, bones, fish, oil, and grease.
- Pet droppings and soiled cat litter.
- Shavings and sawdust from treated wood.
- Noxious weeds with seeds or runners.
- Coal or charcoal ashes.

Avoid These Materials:

What Should I Put in My Compost Pile?

TakeCareOfTexas.org

COMPOSTING

- ◇ Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic matter through biological processes. The end result is a nutrient rich material.
- ◇ Start your pile with Browns (dead leaves, branches, and twigs), Green (grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds), and water.
- ◇ DO NOT USE: meat, bones, fish, dairy products, pet droppings, noxious weeds, or ashes.
- ◇ Turn the pile weekly during summer, and monthly during winter.
- ◇ You can build a bin in your backyard, or purchase a premade container from a store.

The compost is ready when:

- * It smells earthy
- * It no longer heats up after it is turned or dampened
- * It has a crumbly texture
- * It looks like dark soil
- * It has a pH near neutral

For more information go to:

TakeCareOfTexas.org

Why Mulch and Compost?

- To Save Money**
 - Lower your water bill.
 - Buy less fertilizer.
 - Stop buying lawn and leaf bags.
- To Save Time and Effort**
 - Stop bagging grass and leaves.
 - Spend less time watering.
 - Spend less time fertilizing.
- To Help Your Community**
 - Save landfill space.
 - Conserve water resources.
 - Reduce water pollution.