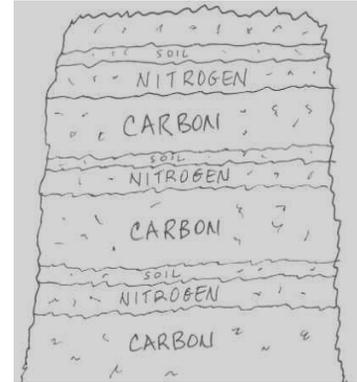


COMPOST...

The Perfect Soil



- A very satisfying and rewarding experience to recycle materials from your home and yard into a beautiful, rich soil
- Simply piling layers of organic materials, adding water and letting it rot
- Includes 5 ingredients
 1. **Carbon:** dry materials like leaves, straw, dried weeds and grass, etc.
 2. **Nitrogen:** wet materials like fresh grass clippings, fresh weeds, manure, kitchen scraps (no meat, fat, oil or processed food), etc.
 3. **Soil:** the “starter” that introduces all the living organisms that will do the decomposing
 4. **Water:** add as you layer and build the pile, and later as necessary
 5. **Air:** needed by the organisms so they can do their job
- The pile needs to be at least 3 feet high and wide initially, the bigger the better
- The more you mix and chop the ingredients the faster they will rot
- The pile **MUST** heat up to make “good” compost that is free of weed seeds and potential disease organisms
- A general ratio of 3 times carbon to 1 of nitrogen is necessary for the pile to work properly and heat up nicely
- Moisture is necessary throughout the process; like a rung out sponge, not soggy
- A bin or container is not necessary, more a personal preference, consider ease of accessing the pile for turning and harvesting; we simply make a pile on the ground
- Cover the pile with black plastic (6 mil) to conserve moisture and heat
- Select a sight in the Sun, away from trees, and close to water
- When the pile is ready to harvest, consider screening through hardware cloth (1/2” mesh) and storing in a covered container for a while if not used immediately
- A garden site and large yard generally has several different piles going: two or more true compost piles as described above, and another “catch-all” pile where garden and yard debris is stockpiled and allowed to rot at a slow pace. The difference is that the heat generated in a true compost pile makes a cleaner, more weed-free soil.



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