



Be Yard Smart & Earth Wise



TIPS ON HOW TO COMPOST

- * Compost grass clippings, leaves, shrub prunings, flowers, weeds, coffee grounds, wood ash, and fruit and vegetable scraps. Do not compost meat bones, dairy products, fish, greasy foods, dog and cat feces, unchopped woody wastes and diseased plants.
- * Chop materials if you want them to break down easily. Mix "browns" (dry, woody materials) with "greens" (moist, green material) at a ration of 3:1.
- * Put material in a bin or pile and turn frequently to aerate.
- * Add water to keep your compost pile as damp as a wrung out sponge.
- * **Troubleshooting.** If the pile is not composting it may be too dry or have too much woody material. Moisten until slightly damp. Turn and add fresh green material. If the pile smells rotten and attracts flies it may be too wet or have non-compostables present. Turn and add dry material. Remove any meat or grease, etc. and then turn. If the pile smells like ammonia, there is too much green material. Turn and add dry or woody material. If rodents get into the pile, rodent-proof by having holes less than 1/4 inch.

Composting - Turning Your Garbage into Gold!



Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is a satisfying way to turn your yard and kitchen waste into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling mix of organic matter that can be used in the garden.

Bacteria, fungi and insects break down leaves, grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, wood chips,

pine straw, twigs and small branches. By duplicating the natural recycling process in a controlled setting, people turn yard waste into valuable compost.

THE PROBLEM: Louisianians currently discard nearly one million tons of green waste annually— leaves, grass, tree trimmings, weeds, fruit and vegetable scraps and other organic matter. That's about 20% of all the garbage in our state's municipal landfills. Landfills are expensive to maintain and difficult to locate.

THE SOLUTION: Composting as part of a "Yard Smart" program is easy to do, benefits both your yard and the environment and extends the life of our landfill.

It saves time.

Composting makes yard work easier. It makes the soil looser and easier to dig. You will not need to water or fertilize as often and time and energy are saved by not bagging yard waste.

It saves money.

When you compost you will purchase less peat moss, bark mulch, and bagged manure, and your plants will require less fertilizer. Compost helps the soil hold moisture and reduces water runoff. Your plants will also need less water, thus reducing your water bill.

It produces a healthier garden and houseplants.

By adding compost you improve the fertility and health of the soil. Healthy plants are disease resistant. Potting soil for houseplants can be made from compost by mixing equal parts compost and sand or soil.



For more information call the East Baton Rouge Parish
Recycling Office: 225.389.5194 or
go online <http://www.brgov.com/dept/recycle/>