



Stuff we can compost

-  Garden waste including leaves, grass cuttings, old flowers
-  Egg shells
-  Fruit & vegetable peelings
-  Tea bags and coffee grounds
-  Bedding from vegetarian pets including rabbits, guinea pigs and goat poo
-  Approved for food use cardboard (i.e. pizza boxes) including egg cartons (no wax or styrofoam)

Stuff we shouldn't compost

You should not add any of the following to your compost heap as they will either not break down properly, or may be unclean or attract unwanted pests.

-  Banana, orange, lime, lemon or grapefruit peels
-  Cooked foods
-  Oils
-  Meat, fish, or dairy products
-  Ash from coal fires
-  Dog or cat poo
-  Used napkins or tissues

My composting notes:

What can I do to help?



"Come Grow With Us!"



Oldsmar Organic Community Garden
 Located in Bicentennial Park at
 423 Lafayette Blvd, Oldsmar, FL 34677
 813-530-6624
www.oocg.org

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Why should we compost?



Composting keeps your plants healthy by adding nutrients to your soil and helps keep moisture in the soil.



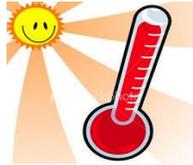
Composting recycles kitchen and yard waste, as much as 30% of home and school waste from the garbage can.



Composting introduces beneficial organisms and insects to the soil including ones that you cannot see without a microscope. Others you can see as the compost cools down, you may see larger organisms such as millipedes, sowbugs, earthworms and others. Compost is teeming with living things!



Composting is good for the environment because it is a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers.



Where should we compost and what temperature should it be?

The best place for a compost bin is in a sunny, well-drained area, out of the wind. Make sure your compost is hot enough. Specifically, the temperature should be 130 - 150 degrees F. It takes about 30 days at 140 degrees to kill all weed seeds. Do not allow you compost temperature to exceed 160 degrees.



What should we compost?

Brown Stuff: Brown stuff is dead, dried plant parts like leaves and pine needles. Brown stuff is high in the element carbon. Leaves are the most important element.

Green Stuff: Green stuff is fresh, living parts like grass clippings, vegetable scraps, weeds and other plants. Green stuff is high in the element nitrogen.



How should we compost

- Start with leaves (Brown Stuff).
- Make a hole in the leaves, add your Green Stuff and cover it up or layer Brown Stuff over Green Stuff.
- Water to keep the pile damp, but not soggy.
- Turn your compost pile once a week.
- When your compost bin is filled enough, do not add greens, let it sit and cook!
- Continue to turn and add water.

Your compost pile is ready when the pile shrinks to half its original size, is dark, earthy and soil-like.

