

Composting Guidelines

The compost pile is not a trash bin. It is an active controlled environment. Materials put into a compost pile are meant to decompose. Keep all non-compostable trash out of the compost pile. Steel cans, aluminum, and glass bottles can be dangerous to the person working the compost pile and contaminate the compost. Old chicken wire, hardware cloth or fencing material and twine can be especially hazardous when the mower is used to chop the vegetation.

All herbaceous debris is welcome including papaya trunks, okra stalks, vines, mallow stems, etc., but please cut these into pieces roughly 12 inches (30 cm) long with a machete before putting in the compost.

No woody branches or bamboo are allowed. They decompose slowly and interfere with the turning of the pile. Branches should be placed in their own debris pile in back of the manure pile.

Dump only into the bin labeled to receive waste vegetation.

Do not disturb a "working" pile. Do not add or remove material. Finished compost will be labeled when it is ready.

An empty bin is not an open bin. Some are empty because we will be turning the compost into them from the adjacent bin. Periodically, all the bins are occupied until the compost is turned and ready to be used. Once again, please be patient or better yet, see the compost coordinator to help turn the compost.

Bury kitchen scraps in the compost. Please don't simply throw them on top. They can attract rats and other vermin. Place them under the top layers of the accumulating material.

Take non-compostable materials home for disposal. In particular, coffee filters are often left on the ground or dumped on top of a working pile. You are responsible for disposing of your own trash.

Help other people who are unsure. If you are not sure, just ask. If you see somebody who needs help, offer it. The compost operation is there for you. Its quality and success is in your hands.

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