

Tips for Effective Composting

- Must keep pile damp, but not wet
- Stir periodically to allow oxygen into the pile
- Carbon : Nitrogen Ratio ***IMPORTANT FOR EFFECTIVE COMPOSTING***
- Odors can result from excess nitrogen
- Simple “Rule of Thumb” to achieve a 30:1 carbon to nitrogen ratio is to build a pile using a mix of: 3 parts “Browns” to 1 part “Greens” - for example, 75% leaves & 25% grass or vegetative food scraps

Browns (Sources of carbon)	Greens (Sources of Nitrogen)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leaves- Straw, hay- Paper/cardboard- Sawdust- Wood chips- Pine needles- Dead, dried up plant parts: cornstalks, sunflower stalks, etc.- Twigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Green plants & parts: (grass clippings, weeds, seaweed)- Food scraps: fruit & vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags, egg shells- Herbivore manure- Alfalfa meal- Blood meal