# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

### How to: Make Your Own Compost

Compost is oftentimes called for when it comes to fertilizing a home garden and it can greatly benefit vegetables in their growth. Compost is a way of recycling organic matter into a humus that is then used to fertilize plants. Compost can be purchased, but it is easy to create your own, as well. Compost can be purchased, but if homemade, it is different each time and the variety of nutrients can benefit the home garden. Compost is different than fertilizer because while fertilizer feeds the plants, compost feeds the soil.

### How to make compost:

Composting can be done in a variety of different ways and includes cold composting, hot composting and vermicomposting. Cold composting is collecting traditional kitchen scraps and letting them decompose over the course of a year.

Hot composting is comprised of three things green material, brown material and moisture. Green material consists of items high in nitrogen and oftentimes include scraps from the kitchen like coffee grounds, banana peels, apple cores and egg shells. Brown material consists of items high in carbon like twigs, paper and sawdust. Equal amounts of green and brown material should be used in creating the compost.

Moisture is used to help the two different materials break down faster, but it is important to not get the compost pile too wet as it will then rot and smell. The compost pile should be moist but not completely saturated. If weekly rainfall is

100%



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low, you can add a bucket of water to the compost pile once a week.

Once the compost pile has been started, it is important to move all of its ingredients. You should turn the compost over once a week and can do so with a shovel.

Vermicomposting is using worms to help break down the substances. Worms eat the scraps and then expel castings high in nitrogen. Redworms are the ones used for composting and can be purchased online.

#### How much compost to make:

Family

**Owned** +Operated

How much compost you should make depends on how big your home garden is and what your spacing for the storing the compost looks like. The minimum recommended amount of compost to use in a home garden is 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet of garden.



100%

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#### What to do with the compost:

Compost should be added to the soil in the spring prior to planting as it will amend the soil and add nutrients that will then be absorbed by the plants. Composting is an ongoing cycle of recycling items from the household and is not a hobby that is completed only once a year. Compost can be stored in a pile outdoors, which is best for hot composting, but if space is limited and the items you are growing are mostly herb gardens or grown in pots, cold composting can be utilized in a bin inside.

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