



Compost Basics

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ANOKA COUNTY RECYCLING &
RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

Basic Definition

Composting:

The process of breaking down organic matter (such as food scraps, leaves, and twigs) until it turns into a mixture of nutrient-rich soil material known as compost



Types of Composting

SIZES

- Backyard/Community (small scale)
- Commercial (large scale)

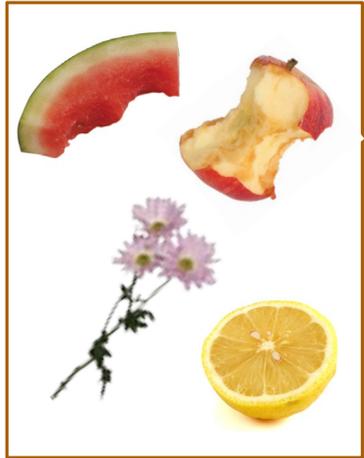
METHODS

- Aerobic (with oxygen)
- Anaerobic (without oxygen)
- Vermicompost (using worms)



Basic Process

GREENS (nitrogen)



Food, garden waste, manure



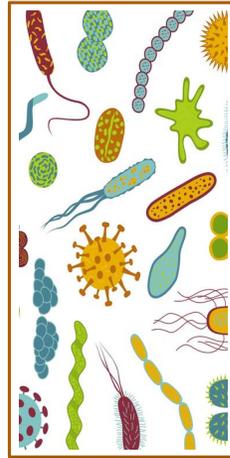
BROWNS (carbon)



Leaves, straw, woodchips



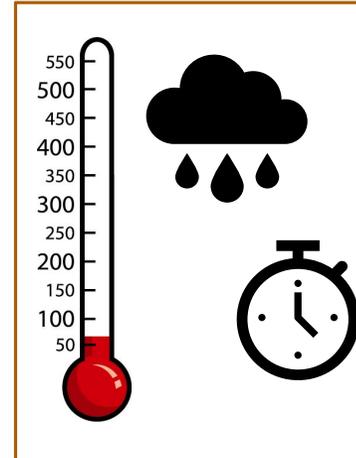
MICROBES



Bacteria, fungi, & macroinvertebrates



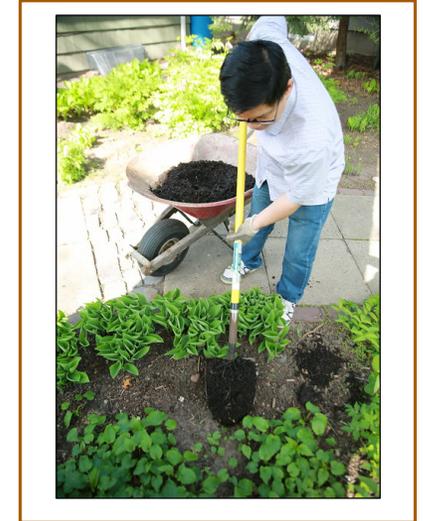
CONDITIONS



Water, time, heat, oxygen



FINISHED COMPOST!





What Goes In- Organics Recycling

- All food scraps
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Meat, fish, and bones (commercial only)
 - Pasta, bread, and cereal
 - Nuts and Shells
- Food-soiled paper
 - Pizza delivery boxes
 - Napkins and paper towels
 - Paper egg cartons
 - Tea bags and coffee ground/filters
- Certified compostable products (commercial only)
 - Must have BPI certification logo



What Goes In- Yard Waste

- Non-woody yard waste
 - Grass clippings, leaves, sod, and weeds
 - Pine cones, acorns, and other seeds
- Tree waste
 - Brush, evergreen boughs, and branches
 - Stumps and logs

What Stays Out- Contamination

- Plastic of any kind
 - Coated paper like freezer boxes, milk and juice cartons (waxy feeling)
 - Plastic bags
 - Fruit stickers, parchment paper, dryer sheets
- Animal/Pet waste
- Grease/Oil (backyard)
- Gum
- Clothing
- Styrofoam
- Recyclable items



Certified Compostable Products

- Man-made products require a standard measurement to ensure safety of products entering commercial compost piles
- Only BPI accepted in Minnesota
- Certification requires:
 - Breakdown into CO₂, water, and inorganic compounds (NPK)
 - Leave no visible, distinguishable, or toxic residue



COMPOSTABLE
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # SAMPLE



County Programs- Compost Sites

- Locations
 - Rice Creek in Lino Lakes
 - Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids
- Yard Waste
 - Grass, leaves, tree waste, stumps
 - Prices vary by material and amount
- Organics Recycling
 - Sign up online or in-person
 - Pick up starter kit at site or our office
 - Drop off in dumpster on site



Questions?

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