



Composting

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An Introduction to Composting

Created for OASIS Farms, a non-profit venue of OASIS , Inc.

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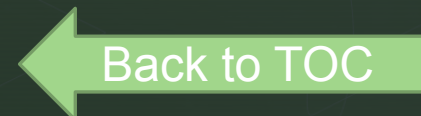
What is Composting?



Composting is a form of waste disposal where organic waste decomposes naturally under oxygen-rich conditions. The final compost product, is full of good nutrients and can be used to fertilize plants, amend poor soil and aid in water retention.

Benefits of Composting

- Composting reduces and transforms yard and lawn waste
- Composting produces a natural fertilizer that can help your lawn and garden thrive
- Composting slows runoff from rain and snow melt and reduces soil erosion
- Composting helps protect the environment
- Composting saves money



Making Compost at OASIS Farms

The following slides depict the steps of making compost the OASIS way.

1

Gathering Tools

- First Make sure you are wearing gloves, have a shear and pruner, and a bucket or plastic bag.



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Collecting Materials - Browns

- The goal is to collect browns and greens, which are the parts of compost.
- Browns are made up of dry leaves, paper shred, branches, wood chips, sawdust, straw, and dryer lint.



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Collecting Materials - Browns

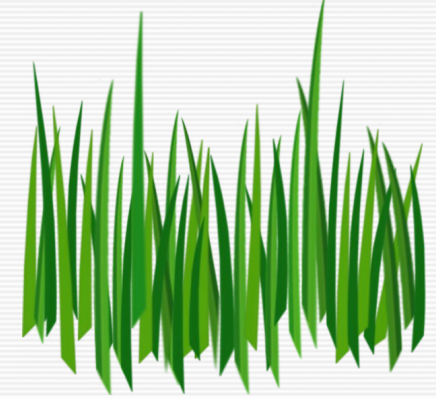
- Collect browns on the farm by collecting leaves from the big pile, using a tree shear to collect branches, collecting woodchips from the big pile, and using paper shred
- Make sure to put all of these in a plastic bag or bucket.



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Collecting Materials - Greens

- Greens are made up of grass clippings, hay, bush trimmings, and flowers.



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Collecting Materials - Greens

- You can collect greens on the farm by using a pruner to prune bushes, grass, and flowers, and placing them in a bucket or a plastic bag.



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Combining Materials

- It is very important that you put in 3 browns for every green you have.
- This means that in a bucket, there should be three times more brown material (such as dry leaves and branches) than green material (such as grass and bush clippings).
- Or, for every 3 wheelbarrows of browns, you should have 1 wheelbarrow of greens.



Putting Materials in Compost Bin

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- Take your browns and greens and scatter them into the compost bin.
- Using a shovel, cover the material you just placed with the dirt that is already in the pile.



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Checking on the compost

- Your compost needs to sit in order for the process to work. Make sure to check the temperature of your compost every other day with the compost thermometer.
- You want the needle of the thermometer in the green zone.
- If the needle is to the right of the green zone, turn the compost pile. If it is to the left, let it sit for a few days
- After 3-4 days, turn your compost pile no matter the temperature.



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