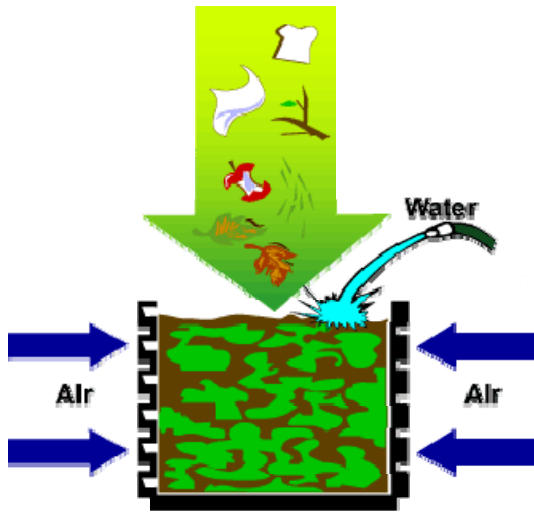


Why Compost?



Composting is an easy way to transform your landscape trimmings and your fruit and vegetable kitchen scraps into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil amendment. Gardeners refer to composting as “turning your garbage into gold” because it saves landfill space, conserves natural resources, and improves soil quality.

In Georgia, yard trimmings have been banned from landfills since 1996. Organic waste such as yard trimmings and kitchen scraps represents about 36% of our waste stream. Recycling organic waste is a natural way to reduce the amount of wastes going into landfills and it conserves natural resources. **Compost is Recycling**, it:

- 🌱 **Saves you money** by lowering garbage bills and replacing the need for commercial soil amendments,
- 🌱 **Helps your garden and container plants** by improving the fertility and health of your soil,
- 🌱 **Saves water** by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff,
- 🌱 **Benefits the environment** by recycling valuable organic resources and reducing the use of fuel to transport yard trimmings off site, and process them on a large scale.

MATERIALS TO COMPOST

Food

- 🌱 Apples and Apple Peels
- 🌱 Beans
- 🌱 Berries
- 🌱 Bread
- 🌱 Cabbage Stalks and Outer Leaves
- 🌱 Citrus Rinds
- 🌱 Coffee Grounds and Filters
- 🌱 Corn Cobs (chopped)
- 🌱 Egg Shells (crushed)
- 🌱 Tea Leaves and Tea Bags

Other Items

- 🌱 Feathers
- 🌱 Flowers
- 🌱 Garden Wastes
- 🌱 Granite Dust
- 🌱 Hair
- 🌱 Hops, spent
- 🌱 Leaves
- 🌱 Pine Needles (chopped)
- 🌱 Soil
- 🌱 Weeds

Non-Compostable Organic Materials

Everything of organic nature will compost, but not everything belongs in your home compost pile. Some materials that create problems include:

- 🌱 Certain grasses with rhizomatous root system, such as crabgrass. These may not be killed by the heat of decomposition and can choke out other plants when compost is used to garden.
- 🌱 Cat and dog manures, which can contain pathogens. These pathogens are not always killed in the heat of the compost.
- 🌱 Plants with disease that are full of insect pests, or where the insects themselves could survive in spite of the compost pile’s heat (examples are apple scab, aphids, tent caterpillars).
- 🌱 Plants which take too long to break down, such as rhododendron and English Laurel leaves.

The DeKalb County Extension Service and Georgia Department of Community Affairs have provided the following information

MULCH

Mulch is placed on top of the soil or around plants to suppress weeds, keep soil moist, and plant roots cool in summer and warm in winter, as well as prevent soil from washing away or becoming hard. Yard wastes can be used as mulch and placed around plants in the garden or along paths and in play areas. The only costs are your time and work. You can also mulch with compost.



WHAT YOU NEED

Materials

For annual flower beds and vegetable gardens:

- Lawn clippings or leaves from deciduous trees and shrubs

For trees and shrubs:

- Wood chips, lawn clippings, sawdust, leaves from deciduous trees and shrubs, pine needles or manure

For pathways and play areas:

- Wood chips or sawdust

Tools

- Shovel
- Wheel barrow
- Rake
- Work gloves

What to do

1. Spread your mulch in the garden, around the base of the tree, or in the path or play area. Rake smooth,
2. Place mulch around the tree as illustrated in the diagram. Mulching trees helps keep moisture in the soil and protects plants during cold weather.



The following information has been provided by:

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