Composting

Tips for Successful Composting
Getting the right mixture of brown (carbon) to green (nitrogenous) materials is important.

The best combination is 4 parts brown to 1 part green.

Too much brown will take more time to break down while too much green results in a slimy, smelly pile.

The best source of brown materials are dry leaves. Instead of bagging your leaves, try composting. It improves the soil for healthier, productive plants as well as improving the texture of clay or sandy soil.

Green materials are lawn clippings, kitchen waste and plant scraps.

Tools that can be helpful
- Pitch fork (for mixing and turning a working compost pile); and,
- Garden Cart/Shovel for moving compost from bin to garden

Helpful Website
www.howtocompost.org
Compost is a decayed mixture of yard waste, food waste, or both that is used to improve the soil in gardens and yards.

To compost, first find a suitable site in a dry, shady or partly shady spot near a water source.

Composting is allowed on lots with 1-2 family dwelling units if an approved compost bin is used.

Upright box-like containers and rotating drums are allowed as long as size requirements are met.

Location on property
- in rear yard,
- at least 5’ from any property line;
- at least 60’ from center of roadway;
- at least 5’ from any other building or structure

Compost Bin Requirements
Either build or purchase a bin to keep out rodents and pets.
- Bins may be purchased or constructed of:
  - woven wire (i.e., hog wire, chicken wire, chain link)
  - wood slat fencing (i.e. snow fencing)
  - cement blocks, bricks or similar material.
- Bin must be no larger than 600 cubic feet and no taller than 4 feet.
- Only one compost bin per lot.
- May contain more than one compartment.
- Placed in a well drained area with no standing water.
- Must have a cover consisting of wire mesh or similar material so that material within the bin cannot be blown out by the wind.
- Must be maintained in good repair.
- No odor can be detected within 5 feet in any direction of the bin.

Every time you add to the pile, turn over and fluff it with a pitchfork or shovel to provide aeration. During dry weather, add water to keep the pile moist.

A good rule-of-thumb is the sponge test: compost should have the consistency and moisture content of a wrung-out sponge.

What can go in a compost bin:
Raw or cooked fruits or vegetables, bread and grains, coffee grounds and filter, grass clippings, paper tea bags, dryer and vacuum cleaner lint, eggshells, nut shells, fireplace ashes from wood burning, sawdust, hay and straw, yard trimmings, houseplants, wood chips, shredded newspaper cardboard rolls and clean paper.

What cannot go in a compost bin:
Metal, glass, plastic, dairy products, fats such as grease and oil, greasy foods, meat or seafood scraps, bones and shells, pet waste, soiled diapers, stickers from fruits or vegetables, black walnut tree leaves or twigs, yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides, roots of perennial weeds, coal or charcoal ash, Firestarter logs and treated, stained or painted wood.

Compost is a decayed mixture of yard waste, food waste, or both that is used to improve the soil in gardens and yards. To compost, first find a suitable site in a dry, shady or partly shady spot near a water source.

Composting is allowed on lots with 1-2 family dwelling units if an approved compost bin is used.

Upright box-like containers and rotating drums are allowed as long as size requirements are met.

Location on property
- in rear yard,
- at least 5’ from any property line;
- at least 60’ from center of roadway;
- at least 5’ from any other building or structure

Compost Bin Requirements
Either build or purchase a bin to keep out rodents and pets.
- Bins may be purchased or constructed of:
  - woven wire (i.e., hog wire, chicken wire, chain link)
  - wood slat fencing (i.e. snow fencing)
  - cement blocks, bricks or similar material.
- Bin must be no larger than 600 cubic feet and no taller than 4 feet.
- Only one compost bin per lot.
- May contain more than one compartment.
- Placed in a well drained area with no standing water.
- Must have a cover consisting of wire mesh or similar material so that material within the bin cannot be blown out by the wind.
- Must be maintained in good repair.
- No odor can be detected within 5 feet in any direction of the bin.

Every time you add to the pile, turn over and fluff it with a pitchfork or shovel to provide aeration. During dry weather, add water to keep the pile moist.

A good rule-of-thumb is the sponge test: compost should have the consistency and moisture content of a wrung-out sponge.