

AIR: Increase the airflow from the bottom of your pile by turning the soil where the pile is to be placed and/or by building it over branches, wire mesh or a wooden pallet. Add more air by turning it when the internal temperature reaches 140° F. In warm weather, turn the pile at least once a week with a garden fork or an aeration tool. Finished compost will not heat above 110°F and it will have shrunk to half of its original size. It can take as little as a month in the ideal conditions for results:

GREENS:

alfalfa pellets, apples and peels, artichokes, asparagus stalks, bananas and peels, beans, beet tops, berries, broccoli, carrots and tops, celery citrus fruit and rinds, coffee grounds, pears, pet hair, food scraps, (non meat scraps only), cucumbers, peas, garden waste (overgrown vegetables), grass clippings (no pesticides), moldy food (no meat, fat, cheese or bones), onions and skins, grapefruit, green leaves, spent hops, human hair, grapes, lettuce, manure (herbivores only), melons, pineapples, pond algae, potatoes and peels, pumpkins, squash, recycled water from cleaning fish tanks, weeds without mature seeds.

BROWNS:

Shredded paper, eggshells, sunflower stalks, end-of-season annual plants, straw, saw dust (small amounts) cotton string, oats, cabbage and broccoli stalks, grain hulls, tissue, cardboard cores (toilet paper & paper towels), wool, autumn leaves, dryer lint, lawn thatch, turnips, peanut husks, stalks from perennial plants, chipped branches, vacuum cleaner sweepings, coffee filters, corn cobs, cornstalks, cotton, landscape trimming, paper towels.

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