

## Composting for your garden

**Compost** is the remains of a once-living organism.

It has been [recycled](#) and rotted until it becomes a [fertilizer](#) that enriches your soil.

Compost is important for growing things.

Composting can be simply making a heap of wet organic matter (leaves, food waste) and waiting for the materials to break down over a period of months.

Composting is a process which includes water, air and carbon- and nitrogen-rich materials.

The composting process goes faster if the plant matter is in small pieces.

Adding water and turning the mixture will speed up the process.

Worms and fungi will work in your compost to break up material.

[Aerobic bacteria](#) (things that break down the compost) manage the chemical process by converting the food into heat, [carbon dioxide](#) and [ammonium](#).

The ammonium is further converted by bacteria into plant-nourishing [nitrites](#) and [nitrates](#).

Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used to grow healthy food.

Compost is good for our soil.

It can fertilize, change the texture of the soil and act as a natural [pesticide](#).

In the hills around our farms, compost is useful for erosion control.

## Compost Lasagna

Alternating Layers of organic (once-living) materials:

Brown, Green, Brown, Green, Brown, Green, Brown, Green, Brown, Green...

What's Brown: High in Carbon or carbohydrates supply energy and food for soil organisms. They also absorb offensive odors, and capture the nitrogen.  
Wood Chips, Paper Towels, dead leaves,

What's Green: High in Nitrogen or protein that help the bacteria grow and multiply; creating high temperatures...  
Grass clippings, vegetable waste, alfalfa hay, animal manure, food scraps.