

# BACKYARD COMPOSTING BASICS



## START WITH:

1. A compost bin or structure to contain the compost pile

2. Add a mixture of brown (carbon-rich) and green (nitrogen-rich) materials at a ratio of at least 2:1

3. Maintain moisture so the pile is damp like a wrung out sponge



4. Turn the pile every 2-4 weeks during the growing season to speed up the composting process

5. Harvest the finished compost in six months to one year





# WHAT TO COMPOST

## Browns

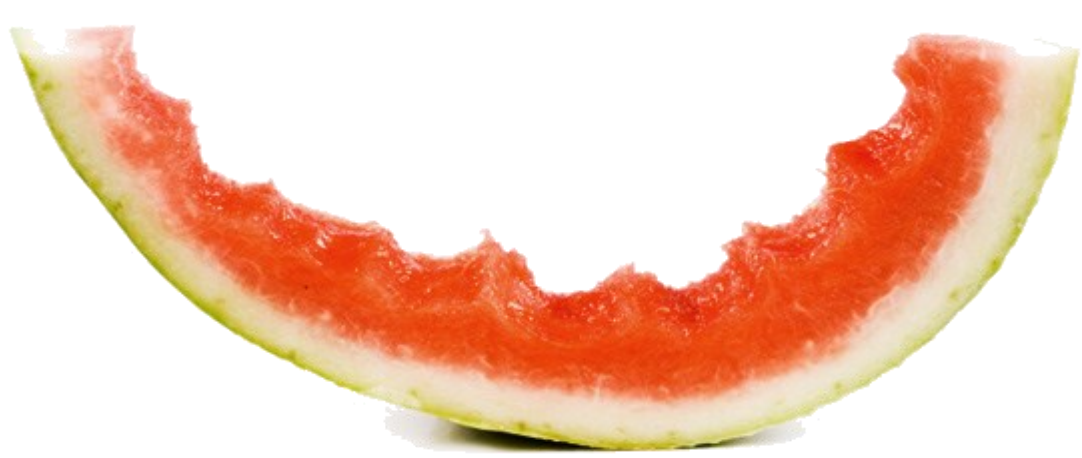


Leaves  
Dried Grass  
Straw



Sawdust or wood shavings (*not from treated wood or black walnut*)

## Greens



Fruit and vegetable scraps, rinds,  
and peels

Grass clippings

Coffee grounds

### Do not compost:

*Butter, cheese, or dairy products*

*Meat or bones*

*Gravies or sauces*

*Pet Waste*



# WHAT IS COMPOST USED FOR

To improve soils for lawns, gardens,  
landscape, and land reclamation  
projects



## Benefits of Composting:

- Improves soil structure
- Reduces moisture needs
- Modifies and stabilizes pH
- Supplies nutrients
- Supplies soil biota
- Suppresses plant diseases