

Composting- the art and science of gathering organic materials so they will decompose and provide a valuable amendment for your soil.

Compost, Organic Matter & Soil Health
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download these free publications...

Building Soils for Better Crops, Sustainable Soil Management
 USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [www.sare.org]

Home Composting, University of Kentucky
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ho/ho75/ho75.pdf>

Plant Rotations in the Garden Based on Plant Families
 (Penn State University) <https://extension.psu.edu>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably
www.sare.org

Compost is thought to have been used in agriculture for 4000+ years, long before the advent of written historical records.

Of all the Nitrogen held in your garden soil, about 98% is stored in the soil organic matter.

Good levels of soil organic matter are the #1 contributor to overall soil quality and soil health.

Consider many means to maintain or improve soil organic matter: compost, “lasagna” gardens, trench composting, cover crops, vermi-composting, organic mulch, and more.

3 key requirements for Compost = **Organic Materials, Water, and Air**

Organic Matter is the key to healthy soil.

Compost is an excellent organic matter amendment for soil.

the best Compost has a good mix of “Greens” and “Browns”...

Compost:

Improves soil structure and fertility.
 Recycles valuable organic materials.
 Improves soil life and bio-diversity.
 Supports healthier plants which are more resistant to diseases and pests.

...always remember that the compost pile is the foundation of a successful garden.”

- John Seymour

Greens Nitrogen-rich organics	Browns Carbon-rich organics
Grass clippings Vegetable culls & trimmings Fruits scraps Egg shells Coffee Grounds Tea Bags Flowers Houseplant cuttings Topsoil & Sod Cow, Horse, Chicken and Rabbit Manure	Leaves plain Paper plain Newspaper Twigs Wood Chips natural Sawdust Tree Bark Pine Needles dry Corn Stalks Straw Nut shells and hulls paper towel tubes/rolls