

# Nitrogen Sources

Here are some sources of nitrogen along with their carbon-nitrogen ratio. Once again, you can see that the ratio varies a lot between the different ingredients.







# Nitrogen Sources

- ◆ Food Scraps 15:1
- ◆ Grass clippings 18:1
- ◆ Coffee grounds 20:1
- ◆ Horse manure 25:1



Then sprinkle a shovelful of soil or compost to add microorganisms to the bin.



# Shovel the Soil







## Watering

Each layer gets a good sprinkling of water to wet the ingredients. It is important to wet each layer as you build it. Repeat each of the layers until the bin is full and then.....



...TAH DAHHHH! the microorganisms will go to work breaking down the ingredients into humus. If you want faster compost, you can mix the ingredients every few weeks but this isn't necessary.



Finished  
Bin!







## Compost “Critters”

Now tiny microorganisms (that you cannot see without a microscope) go to work breaking down the organic matter into compost. Later, as the compost cools down, you may see larger organisms such as millipedes, sowbugs, earthworms and others. Compost is teeming with living things!



This is compost, the dark, earthy-smelling stuff is rich in nutrients. Plants love it! Let's talk about how to use compost to help plants grow.



# Handful of Compost







# Use Compost as Mulch



You can use compost as a mulch around garden plants, like this rose bush. Mulch protects the soil and shades out weed seeds. Nutrients are washed out into the soil with each rain to feed the roots of plants.



Compost is great for mixing into the soil when you are planting a new plant like this flower! It helps a sandy soil hold moisture and nutrients better and improves clay soils too.



Mix Into  
Planting  
Hole







## Use Compost in Potting Soil

Compost mixed with some sand makes a super potting soil for growing plants in containers.



Another way to compost in the garden is by trench composting.

## Trench Composting







# Dumping Leaves In Trench

Start by placing leaves in the trenches between raised beds, or in the pathways through your garden.







By the end of the gardening season these leaves will be mostly decomposed and can be scooped up and placed around garden plants as an excellent mulch. Or, you can mix them into the planting beds to improve the soil.

## Shovelling Compost from Trench







# Compost “Pockets”

Another way to compost in the garden is by making compost pockets. They are easy and fun.





Start by digging a hole about 18" deep. Place fruit, vegetable scraps and coffee grounds from the kitchen in the hole. Don't use meat, fat, milk or eggs because pets or wild critters will try to dig them up for lunch!







## Covering With Soil

Next, cover the scraps with soil to bury them and fill the hole. Now you can make more compost pockets in other locations!





After about a month or two you can plant a flower or maybe a tomato plant on the spot where you make the compost pocket. Then stand back and watch it grow!





# The End



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