

# How to use compost

Use compost as:

- seed-raising mix
- fertiliser
- mulch (apply up to twice a year on natives).



# What you can compost

Fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells, old potting mix, dead flowers, human and animal hair.

**Hint** Avoid placing meat or dairy products in your compost until you are confident and experienced in making compost.



## 4 easy steps to great compost

### 1 Choose the site

Look for a site with good drainage and summer shade.



### 2 Compost ingredients

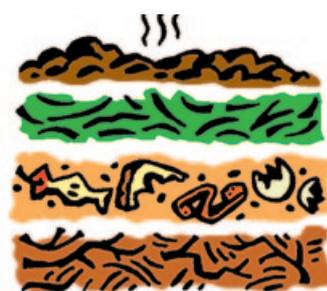
You will need:

- nitrogen rich kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable peelings and green garden vegetation such as fresh grass clippings, green leaves, weeds and manure
- carbon-rich brown garden vegetation such as dry leaves, woody twigs, paper and straw
- some water
- some soil or completed compost to introduce composting micro-organisms.



### 3 Layering

To build compost, start with a thick layer (15cm) of twigs or coarse mulch at the base for drainage. Then follow the A,B,C steps and repeat to build a heap layer upon layer.



- A.** Thin layer of kitchen scraps and green garden vegetation
- B.** Cover with a layer of brown garden vegetation covering all kitchen scraps
- C.** Moisten well

Repeat A,B,C.

**Hint** Sprinkling soil or finished compost on top of food scraps will make a richer compost and help reduce odours.

### 4 Maintaining your compost

Add air to the compost so it doesn't smell by turning it with a garden fork weekly or by placing garden stakes or pipes through the heap to allow air in.

**Hint** Cover your heap so that it is just moist, not wet. If it is wet or saturated mix more dry brown material through it and turn.

#### Hints

- ✓ Use the lawn mower to chop up coarse garden prunings.
- ✓ Keep a bucket with a well-sealed lid in the kitchen to collect food scraps.



## Compost problems? Turn over for the Easy Compost Fix-it Guide

### Why compost?

Compost is natural and inexpensive and is good for the environment. By turning food scraps and garden vegetation into compost you can:

- **improve** soil quality and garden vitality
- **conserve** water

- **recycle** valuable nutrients and reduce the use of artificial fertilisers
- **prevent** greenhouse gas emissions and landfill impacts from wasted food and garden vegetation.



### Did you know?

- About half of what we throw into the garbage bin is food and garden waste.
- These materials can be used to make compost to benefit your garden.

