

# Yard Waste Composting

## Compost is “Black Gold” around your home!

- makes soil loose and dark
- helps the soil retain water
- fertilizes the soil in nature’s way
- makes plants grow better

Healthy plants help clean air, conserve our soil and beautify our world!

### Bin Method: For kitchen waste

#### Put in the Bin

Plants we eat (salads, vegetables, fruit without seeds, fruit peels, etc.) and of course yard waste.

#### Put in Garbage

Animal products and fats (meat, bones, cheese, butter, salad with any oil, salad dressing, etc.) These items can attract animals.

Add to bin every day. Place the bin in a convenient location so it will be easier to access in the winter.

You can but don’t need to turn the bin, since turning can be very messy! Bins can be constructed or materials can just be composted in a pile.

Use compost from bottom of bin as solid conditioner around the home – it’s nature’s way!

### Pile Method: For Yard Waste

- Start with a layer of yard waste mixed together, preferably chopped, “sponge damp” and 6” deep.
- Half green and half brown is ideal, which you can get by: piling tree leaves in fall or by mixing tree leaves with grass clippings.
- On top of th6” layer put 1” of good damp top soil and water it.
- If you have more brown than green add nitrogen which will speed up the process, you can get this by:
  - Mixing in more green
  - Adding nitrogen fertilizer on top of the soil at a cup per 10 square feet
  - Adding 2 inches of manure
- Water this layer until material at bottom of layer is sponge damp.
- Repeat the process until pile is 4’ x 4’ or 6’ x 6’. Then, make a depression in the middle of the pile to catch rain water.
- Turn pile and water if needed – which can be done as often as every week. If wish to turn only once do it 4 to 6 weeks after forming last layer.
- Depending on the time of the year, compost should be “cooked” over the summer but takes longer during the winter.

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## LORAIN COUNTY

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### Solid Waste Management District

A Department of the Lorain County Commissioners

*Join us in*

*“Working together to Help Keep Lorain County Clean & Green”*

1-800-449-5463

[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)

# Worm Composting

Worm composting, also called vermicomposting, is one of the easiest methods for reusing fruit and vegetable scraps from your kitchen and yard. All you need is a container filled with moistened bedding, worms and food scraps.

The worms, with help from micro-organisms, convert the bedding and food waste into compost in only a few weeks. Worm composting is so simple it can be done virtually anywhere: schools, offices or at home. It is a natural method for recycling nutrients in food waste.

The resulting compost is an excellent soil amendment that can be used to make potting soil for house plants or as a fertilizer for your garden. Worm compost is also a rich source of nitrogen, making it an excellent organic fertilizer. Finally, the worm tea (the liquid that is produced during the composting process) is also an excellent organic fertilizer and contains many essential minerals and nutrients plants need to grow.

## Can't wait for Compost?

- If you can't wait for compost, use the half finished compost as mulch.
- Half finished compost (leaf mulch can be used for weed control, moisture preservation and eventual soil improvement in gardens, landscape beds and flower gardens.
- Woody organic matter before composting can be used as a mulch for paths and flower beds around your home, or can be composted.