

Compost Ingredients

Ideal ratio - 25:1 (C:N)

Greens

- Aquarium water, algae, and plants (from freshwater fish tanks only) add moisture and nitrogen.
- Chicken manure has high amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
- Horse manure contains more nitrogen than cow manure.
- Dead houseplants add a dose of nitrogen, but don't include thorny or diseased plants.
- Fresh grass clippings should be mixed with plenty of drier, brown material, or you'll risk creating a smelly pile. Avoid thick layering of grass.
- Green garden debris, such as spent annuals and perennials, bolted lettuce, and deadheaded flowers, can all be recycled in the compost bin.
- Manure from pet rabbits and rodents (e.g., gerbils and hamsters) can be composted with the accompanying wood or paper bedding.
- Vegetable and kitchen scraps should be buried in the pile so they don't attract animals.
- Weeds can be composted, but do not add weeds that have set seed or weeds that root easily from stems or rhizomes, such as field bindweed and Canada thistle. If you don't know the weed, don't put it in.

Green Ingredients	C:N
fresh grass clippings	15:1
weeds*	30:1
kitchen scraps	20:1
coffee grounds	20:1
manures	10-20:1
freshly cut hay	25:1
seaweed	20:1
alfalfa	12:1
hair/fur	10:1
fish emulsions	8:1
blood meal	4:1



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Browns

- Brown garden debris, such as woody plant material (corn and sunflower stalks, dried legume plants, and dried potato and tomato vines) adds bulk to the pile.
- Hedge prunings and twigs help keep a pile fluffy but should be chipped first so they decompose faster. Avoid large pieces where possible.
- Leaves are an abundant carbon source and full of nutrients. Stockpile them in fall so that you have them on hand in summer, or make leaf mould and add that in.
- Pine needles decompose slowly. Add only small amounts to your pile. Use excess needles as a mulch and be mindful of pH changes (acidic).
- Straw bulks up a pile, but it should not be confused with hay, which often contains weed and grass seeds and shouldn't be added to compost (unless you want to deal with the potential consequences).
- Add extra straw in a no-turn compost pile for better aeration

Brown Ingredients	C:N
shredded newspaper*	170:1
Straw	75:1
shredded cardboard	350:1
dried leaves	70:1
old hay	55:1
sawdust	400:1
wood chips	400:1
small branches/twigs	500:1
paper towel	110:1
tissue paper	70:1
wood ashes	25:1
dried grass clippings	50:1
pine needles**	80:1

Sources:

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/compost-ingredients>

<http://www.compostjunkie.com/compost-ingredients.html>

