**Pathway Community Garden 2015**

**Compost Instructions**

**Things you CAN Compost:**

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| **Materials** | **Carbon or Nitrogen** | **Details** |
| Ashes (wood, not coal) | Neutral | Use only wood ashes since coal ashes can be toxic to plants. Use sparingly as a pest deterrent. |
| Banana peels | Nitrogen | Shredding or chopping it up will help it break down quicker |
| Cardboard | Carbon | If you have lots of this, consider recycling it. Otherwise, shred into small pieces in pile. |
| Coffee grounds (and filters) | Nitrogen | Great source of nitrogen and worms love coffee grounds! The filter will break down so add it too! |
| Cornstalks, corn cobs | Carbon | A little tricky, so shred and/or break down and mix well into pile. |
| Dryer lint | Carbon | Yum, lint. Make sure you moisten it a little before you add it. |
| Egg shells | Neutral | These break down slowly, so make sure to crush these before adding. |
| Flowers | Nitrogen | Green use as Nitrogen, dried use as carbon |
| Fruit peels (not limes) | Nitrogen | Best if you cut them up to small pieces |
| Green Grass clippings | Nitrogen | When green can be used as a Nitrogen |
| Dried Grass clippings | Carbon | Make sure they are not too wet and mix with dry leaves for best results. |
| Hedge Clippings | Carbon | Shredding or chopping it up will help it break down quicker |
| Leaves | Carbon | Shredding or chopping it up will help it break down quicker |
| Manure from herbivores (cow, horse, pig, sheep, chicken, rabbit) | Nitrogen | Best if known to come from a herbivore |
| Newspaper | Carbon | Shredding or chopping will help it break down quicker |
| Nut shells | Carbon | Shredding or chopping will help it break down quicker |
| Oak leaves | Carbon | Shredding or chopping will help it break down quicker |
| Sawdust and wood shavings | Carbon | Preferably *not* from kiln-dried wood |
| Paper | Carbon | Shredding will help it break down quicker |
| Peanut hulls | Carbon | Shredding or chopping will help it break down quicker |
| Peat moss | Carbon | Also great to add to your garden soil |
| Pine needles and cones | Carbon | Shredding or chopping will help it break down quicker |
| Tea leaves | Carbon | Best if shredded to help it break down quicker |
| Vegetable peels and scraps | Nitrogen | Kitchen scraps are a great source of nitrogen |
| Wheat straw | Carbon | Best if shredded to help it break down quicker |

**Things you SHOULD NOT COMPOST:**

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| **Materials** | **Carbon or Nitrogen** | **Details** |
| Ashes (coal or charcoal) | n/a | May contain materials that are toxic to plants. |
| Cat droppings/litter | n/a | These may contain disease organisms and should always be avoided for composting. |
| Colored paper |  |  |
| Dog droppings | n/a | Same as cats. |
| Lime | n/a | High alkaline pH can kill composting action. |
| Meat, fat, grease, oils, bones | n/a | Do not break down, can coat materials and “preserve” them, can attract pests. |
| Milk, yogurt, cheese | n/a | May attract pests. |
| Weeds |  | May spread unwanted seeds. |
| Nonbiodegradable materials |  |  |
| Toxic materials |  |  |

**HAVE QUESTIONS?** Call Lyle Suderman, Pathway Community Garden Coordinator, at 913.829.3842

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