



Composting for Everyone

Presenters

Mary Mahon – Hawthorne Environmental
Commissioner

What is Composting?

Composting is a natural process where organic materials decompose and are recycled into a dark, crumbly, earthy smelling soil conditioner known as "compost".

Compost improves soil structure and moisture retention, and contributes to healthy plant growth by providing plant nutrients.

Why Should I Compost?

- Composting can save money!
- Reduces fertilizer and water use
- Avoids garbage collection and landfill fees
- Reduces the need for soil and plant amendments
- Composting helps the environment
- Reduces the volume of garbage going to landfills, transfer stations and incinerators
- Composting benefits your soil and plants
- Reduces chemical inputs
- Composting is easy
- Save time bagging grass and leaves
- Quick and fun way to do part for the environment



RECYCLE FOOD WASTE

Less garbage for the land fills
Excellent free compost for your plants
Inexpensive and Easy

Composting

Source Video: Mary Mahon

Compost Basics

- **Browns** - This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs. Provides the Carbon for your Compost
- **Greens** - This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds. Materials Provide Nitrogen
- **Water** - Having the right amount of water, greens, and browns is important for compost development. Provides Moisture to Help Break Down the Organic Matter.

Your compost pile should have an equal amount of browns to greens.

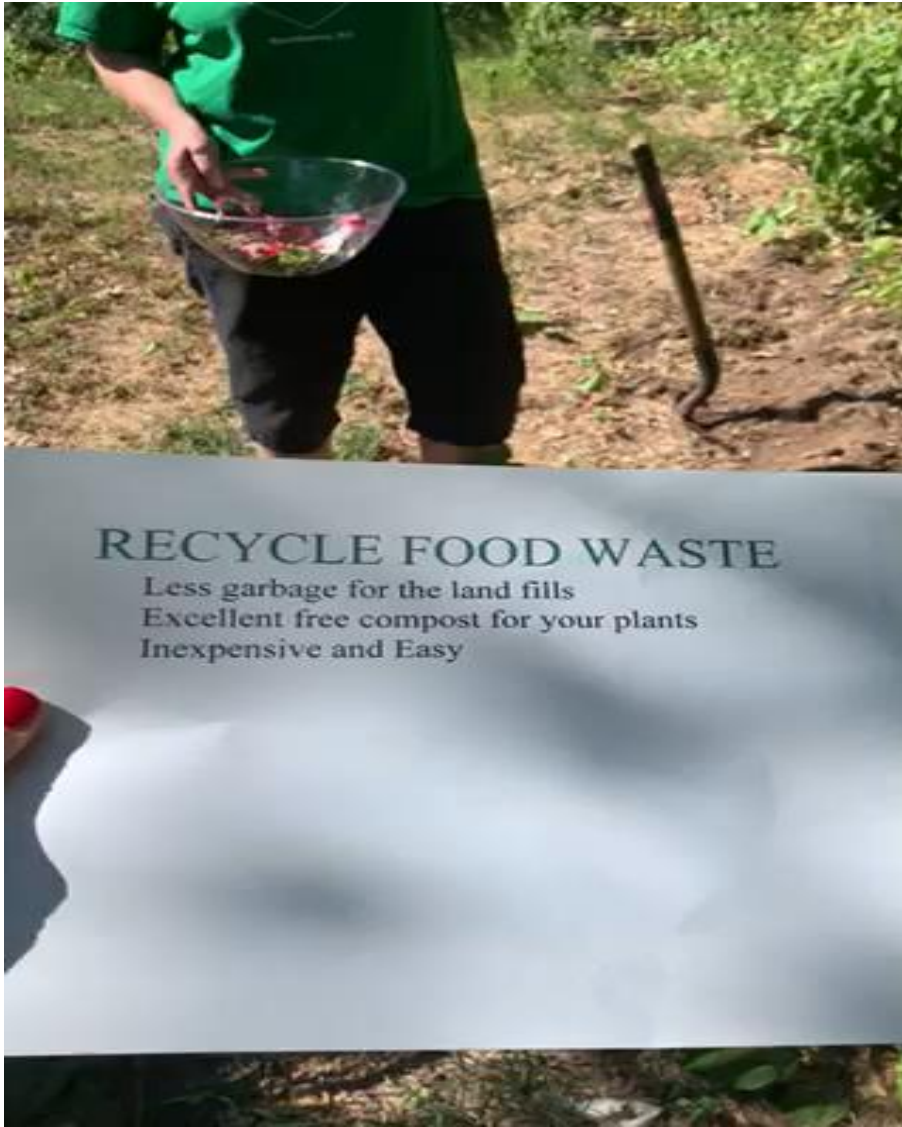
Compost Ingredients

Do Compost

- Vegetable food scraps
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Flowers
- Weeds
- Sawdust and wood ash
- Chopped twigs and branches
- Coffee grounds w/filters

Do Not Compost

- Meat scraps
- Diseased or insect infested plants
- Weeds with seeds
- Dog and cat feces
- Food with grease or soap residues



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Source Video: Mary Mahon, and
Trygve Johannesen Boy Scout
Troop 77 of Wyckoff