Composting 101

(The easiest, no-frills way to begin.)

**Why Compost?** Why contribute material to a landfill that can easily be transformed into a valuable, rich soil additive or mulch that is free…

**What goes into compost?** Anything that was once alive (except meat, bones, fat or dairy) such as leaves, twigs, yard waste, fruit and vegetable scrapes, shredded paper…

**What do I do?** Pile the material into a somewhat cube or rectangle shape directly on the ground or snow in sun or shade. Behind the garage or in the back of your lot is perfect. Keep adding to the top of the pile as you accumulate material, then to one side when the pile is as high as you want. Keep adding to the back or one side to separate new from partially composted. After about a year or so, dig out the finished compost. It will be dark brown, crumbly and sweet smelling. If you find pieces that are not finished, simply toss them into the unfinished area. That’s it!

**How do I speed up the process?** If you want to, chop the pieces smaller and/or turn the material over occasionally to add oxygen to the pile. You can also layer the pile brown, green, brown, green, etc. None of this is necessary to make finished compost.

**How do I use finished compost?** Spread it out in an even layer where it is and start another pile someplace else. Spread the compost in a garden or lightly over grass. Dig it in as a soil additive…

Note: You will never get as much as you want once you start!