

Guide to materials that are excellent for backyard composting. Strive for a **2:1 ratio of browns to greens**. Other proportions of browns to greens can still create good compost, but may decompose more slowly. When in doubt, it's better to add more browns.



GREENS (fresh, moist, nitrogen-rich materials)

FROM YOUR GARDEN

- green plants and garden trimmings
- fresh leaves and flowers
- grass clippings (or recycle by leaving on the lawn)

FROM YOUR KITCHEN/HOME

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- coffee grounds and tea bags

BROWNS (dead, dry, carbon-rich materials)

FROM YOUR GARDEN

- fall leaves, small twigs, and woody prunings
- dry plant material
- straw and hay
- pine needles
- potting soil

FROM YOUR KITCHEN/HOME

- bread and grains
- egg shells
- nutshells
- corncobs
- food-soiled paper towels and napkins
- shredded newspaper
- sawdust and wood shavings (from untreated wood)
- stale beans, flour, and spices

TOWN OF CANANDAIGUA
Transfer Station



Reduce . Reuse . Recycle . Rethink .

See back for what to avoid....

Not Suitable for Backyard Composting

FROM YOUR GARDEN

- pesticide-treated plants or pesticide-treated grass clippings
- diseased or pest-infested plants
- poison ivy
- invasive weeds
- weeds with seeds
- large branches
- non-compostable materials such as sand or construction debris

FROM YOUR KITCHEN/HOME

- meat or fish scraps*
- cheese or dairy products*
- fats, grease, or oil*
- compostable plastics*
- cat or dog feces; kitty litter
- colored or glossy paper
- sawdust made from pressure-treated plywood or lumber
- coal or charcoal ashes
- non-compostable materials such as plastics, metals, or glass

*These materials can be composted in industrial scale compost programs, like our food and organic waste collection program at the Transfer Station. See our website TownofCanadaigua.org for details and additional resources for backyard composting.