

## **We now have composters!!!**

Great news! Your Community Allotment now has composter bins, thanks to one of our volunteers hard work. Well done and a huge thanks, Mick x

We can now save 'Green' and 'Brown' waste to turn into our very own compost!



A bit of info about what these are:

'Greens' are the nitrogen-rich additions to your compost pile. These tend to have lots of moisture, break down quickly, and provide a quick burst of heat to your pile. While we call them greens, technically any plant matter will work here: coffee grounds for example, are brown in colour, but they're rich in nitrogen, hence, they're a green for composting purposes. Here are some ideas for greens to add to your compost bin:

1. Fruit and vegetable peels
2. Citrus rinds
3. Melon rinds
4. Coffee grounds
5. Tea leaves and paper tea bags
6. Old vegetables that aren't suitable for eating anymore
7. Houseplant trimmings
8. Weeds that haven't gone to seed
9. Grass clippings
10. Fresh leaves
11. Deadheads from flowers

12. Dead plants (as long as they aren't diseased)
13. Seaweed
14. Cooked plain rice
15. Cooked plain pasta
16. Stale bread
17. Corn husks
18. Corn cobs
19. Broccoli stalks
20. Sod that you've removed to make new garden beds
21. Thinning's from the vegetable garden
22. Spent bulbs that you used for forcing indoors
23. Holiday greenery from wreaths and swags (just be sure to cut the stems off of the wreath form or wires first)
24. Old dried herbs and spices that have lost their flavour
25. Eggshells

In general, you should have about four times as many browns as greens. Pay strict attention to proportions. If your goal is simply to avoid sending organic matter to the landfill and the compost is an afterthought, then you don't need to worry about it too much. If your bin gets wet and smelly, add more browns and cut back on the greens for a while, then give it a turn. If the contents of your bin aren't breaking down, add some greens, turn it, and it should start turning into compost again.

#### Browns for Your Compost Bin

'Browns' are the carbon-rich materials that add aeration to the pile and structure to your compost. They break down more slowly, so it's a good idea to chop them up fairly small. Here are some browns to put in your compost:

1. Shredded newspaper
2. Shredded office or school papers
3. Shredded, non-glossy junk mail
4. Torn up plain corrugated cardboard boxes (not with glossy coatings)
5. Straw
6. Bedding from hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits
7. Fall leaves

8. Chopped up twigs and small branches
9. Pinecones
10. Nutshells (avoid walnut shells as they can inhibit plant growth)
11. Excelsior
12. Raffia
13. Used napkins
14. Toilet paper, paper towel, or wrapping paper tubes
15. Fallen bird's nests
16. Pine needles or straw
17. Used paper coffee filters
18. Pressed paper egg cartons, torn into small pieces
19. Sawdust (only from untreated wood)
20. Brown paper shopping bags, shredded or torn
21. Brown paper lunch bags, shredded or torn
22. Leftover peat or coir from seed starting
23. Coir liners for hanging baskets
24. Wood chips
25. Bedding from chickens