

How To COMPOST

A compost bin is actually a **habitat** for compost "D.O.ers" (**Decomposing Organisms**). Layer the right amounts of **air, water, and food**, and they will produce rich compost.

Water **O**xygen **N**itrogen **C**arbon

Balance these inputs for successful compost!

Water **O**xygen

Too much water will make your compost slimy and smelly.

Water **O**xygen

Too much air will dry the bin and bring composting to a halt.

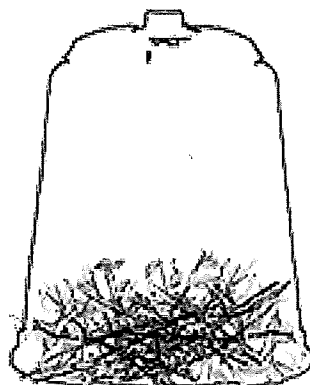
Nitrogen **C**arbon

Too much nitrogen (greens) will make your compost smelly.

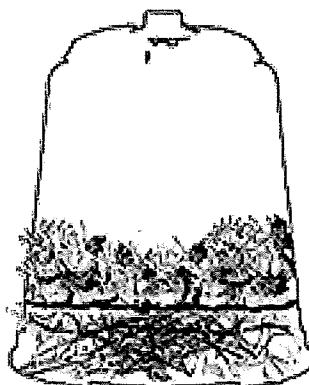
Nitrogen **C**arbon

Too much carbon (browns) will slow composting.

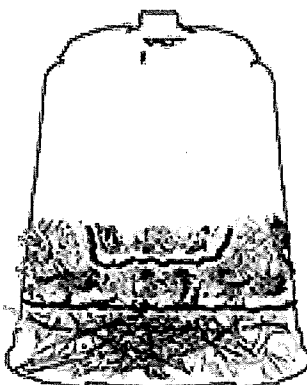
How to Lasagna Layer



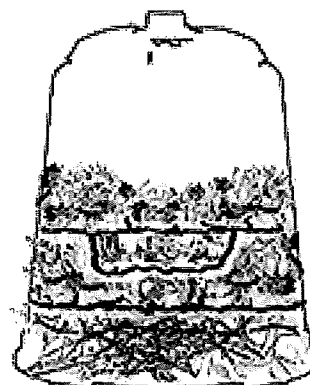
1. Start With Sticks
8" of criss-crossed sticks ensures airflow, just like when building a fire.



2. Add Browns
Add a layer of leaves or other carbon materials - higher on the sides, lower in the middle (bowl-shaped).



3. Add Greens
Add grass clippings, food scraps or other nitrogen materials in a thin layer in the "bowl."



4. Cover the Greens
Add a 1-2" layer of browns - enough to completely cover the greens.

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Tompkins County



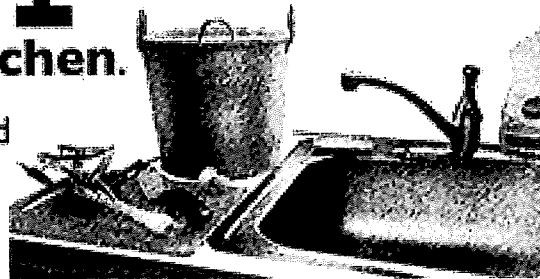
LOVE
YOUR
COMPOST!
Master Composters of Tompkins County



Where To COMPOST

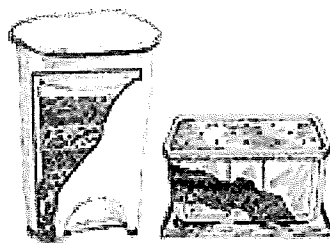
Composting begins in your **kitchen**.

1. Pick a **container** that's the right size to hold the amount of food scraps you produce.
2. Use a **tight-fitting lid** to discourage fruit flies and odors.
3. Line with **newspaper** to absorb moisture and make cleanup easy.

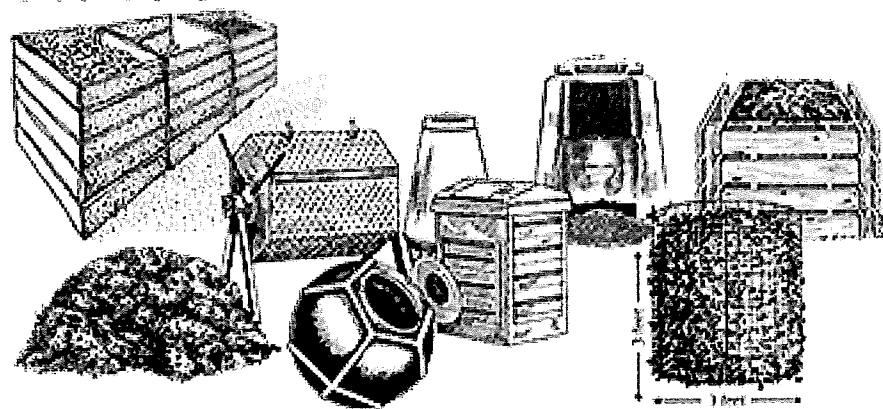


Then, it moves into a **compost bin or pile** of your choice.

Indoors



Outdoors



Amount of Scraps
Property Size
Set-up effort
Cost
Speed
Maintenance

My Perfect
Compost Bin

Whether you place you bin in the sun or in the shade,* by your back door or on the back forty, the **best place** for a compost bin is where you **will remember to use it best**.

*Sun versus shade placement only impacts moisture level. Sunny bins may dry out, shady bins may get too wet.

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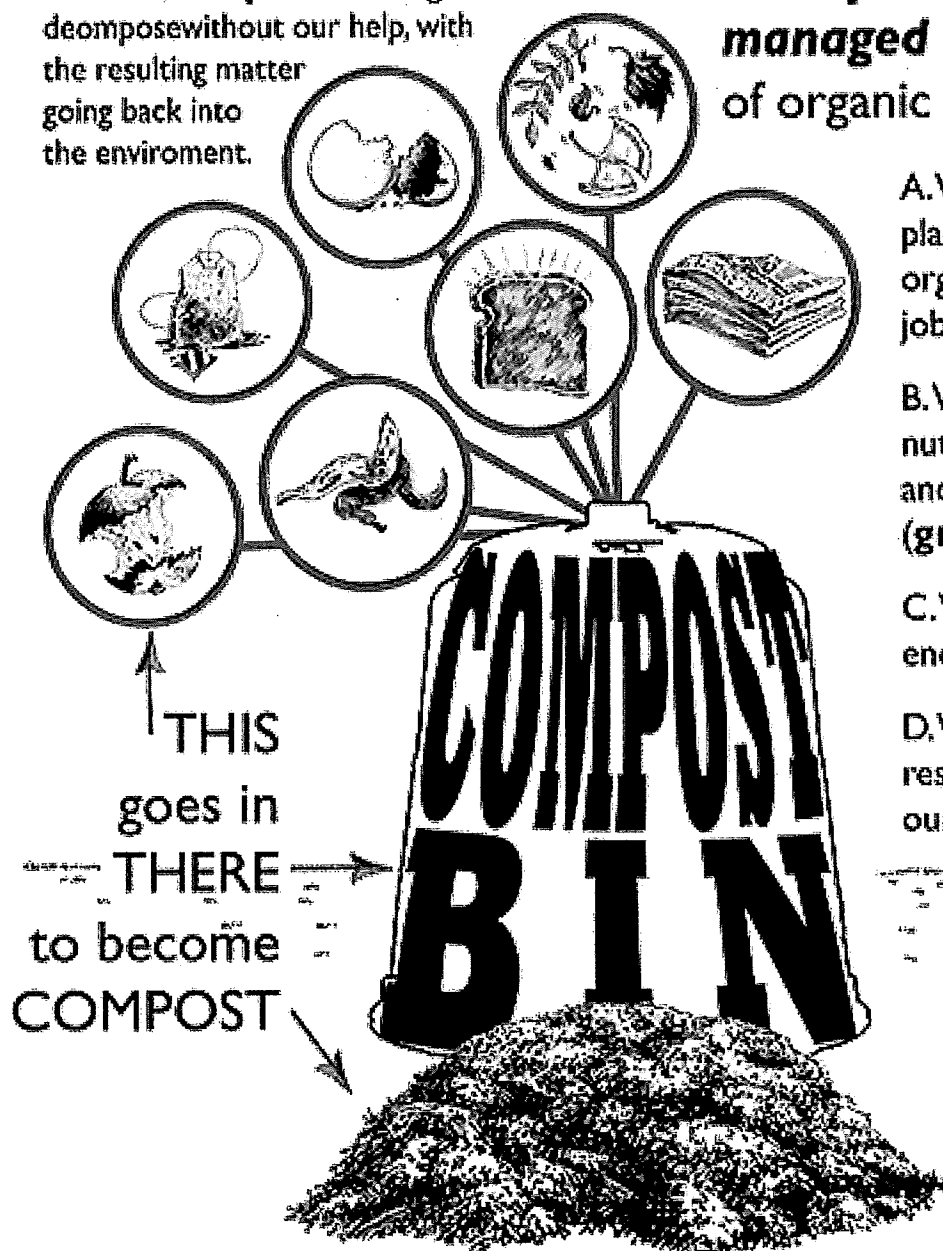
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Tompkins County Master Composters



What Is COMPOST

In nature, **compostable** organic matter will decompose without our help, with the resulting matter going back into the environment.

Composting is the *managed decomposition* of organic matter:



A. We **build** a healthy place for decomposing organisms to do their job.

B. We **feed** the bin with nutritious food scraps and garden trimmings (**greens & browns**).

C. We make sure it has enough **water** and **air**.

D. We **harvest** the results to enrich our soil.

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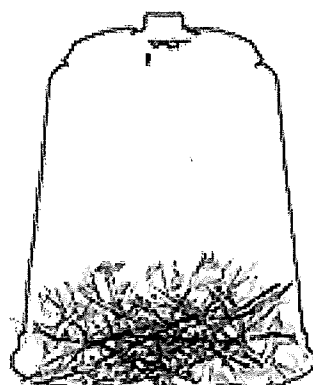
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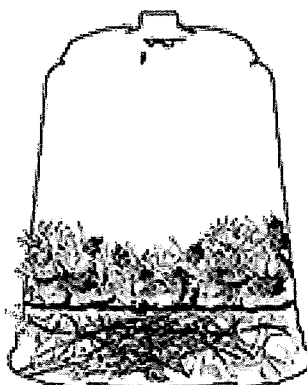
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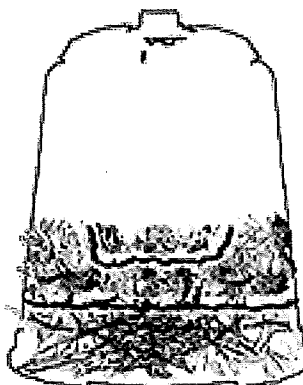
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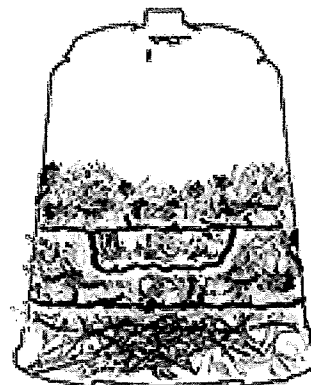
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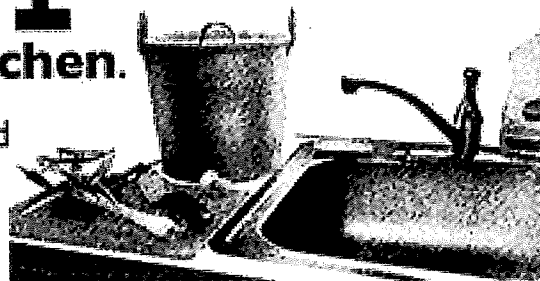
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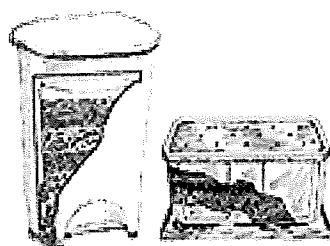
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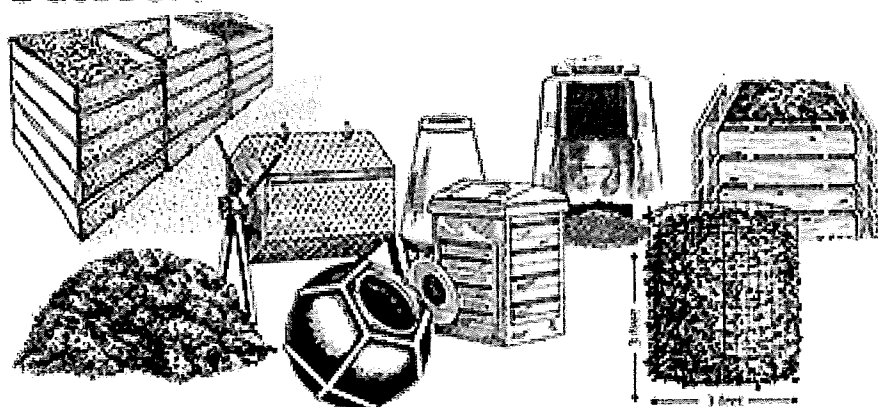


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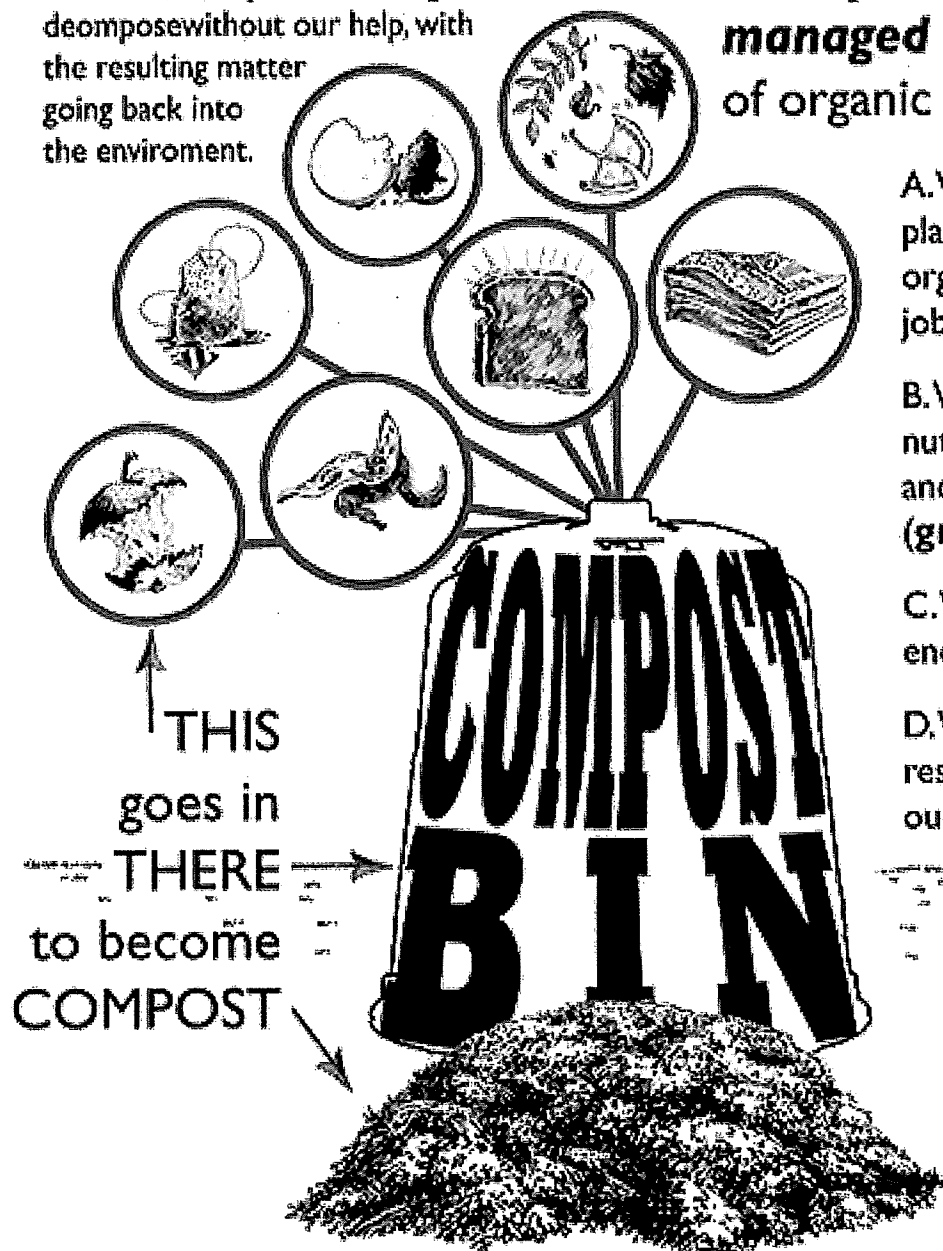
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