

Why compost yard and kitchen wastes?

- **National Composting Council estimates the average U.S. household generates 650 lb of compostables every year.**



One teaspoon of good garden soil to which compost has been added contains

- 100 million bacteria**
- 800 feet of fungal threads**



“The number of creatures on a single acre of land far exceeds the entire human population of the world.” Nardo

COMPOST HAPPENS
HERE



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NATALIE MCGILL/THE GAZETTE

Doug Alexander of Cheverly checks on the progress of his compost pile Sept. 27. Alexander is leading an effort to get 25 percent of Cheverly's single-family households composting, which he calculates could save the town \$112,000 in landfill dumping fees during 20 years.

Turning trash into treasure

Manufactured bins from Earth Machine & EnviroWorld



Browns

High carbon materials such as

Leaves (30-80:1)

Straw (40-100:1)

Paper (150-200:1)

Sawdust (100-500:1)

Animal bedding
mixed with manure
(30-80:1)



Greens

High nitrogen materials such as

Vegetable scraps (12-20:1)

Coffee grounds (20:1)

Grass clippings (12-25:1)

Manure

- Cow (20:1)
- Horse (25:1)
- Poultry (10:1), with litter (13-18:1)



Browns

- **Decay very slowly**
- **Coarse browns can keep pile aerated**
- **Tend to accumulate in the fall**
- **Tie up nitrogen in soil if not fully composted**
- **May need to stockpile until greens are available**

Greens

- **Decay rapidly**
- **Poor aeration – may have foul odors if composted alone**
- **Tend to accumulate in spring and summer**
- **Supply nitrogen for composting**
- **Best composting if mixed with browns**