BACKYARD COMPOSTING BASICS

START WITH:
1. A compost bin or structure to contain the compost pile

2. Add a mixture of brown (carbon-rich) and green (nitrogen-rich) materials at a ratio of at least 2:1

3. Maintain moisture so the pile is damp like a wrung out sponge

4. Turn the pile every 2-4 weeks during the growing season to speed up the composting process

5. Harvest the finished compost in six months to one year
WHAT TO COMPOST

Browns

Leaves
Dried Grass
Straw
Sawdust or wood shavings (not from treated wood or black walnut)

Greens

Fruit and vegetable scraps, rinds, and peels
Grass clippings
Coffee grounds

Do not compost:
Butter, cheese, or dairy products
Meat or bones
Gravies or sauces
Pet Waste
WHAT IS COMPOST USED FOR

To improve soils for lawns, gardens, landscape, and land reclamation projects

Benefits of Composting:

- Improves soil structure
- Reduces moisture needs
- Modifies and stabilizes pH
- Supplies nutrients
- Supplies soil biota
- Suppresses plant diseases