

# Compost System Management

This playbook outlines the steps for building a compost bin, identifying compostable materials, and managing the composting process to create nutrient-rich soil for gardening purposes.

## Step 1: **Select Location**

Choose a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost bin.

## Step 2: **Build Bin**

Construct a compost bin using materials like wood pallets or wire mesh. Ensure it's at least 3 feet wide and deep.

## Step 3: **Add Browns**

Begin layering your compost with 'brown' materials, such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs, to start the base.

## Step 4: **Add Greens**

Add 'green' materials, like vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds, on top of the brown layer.

## Step 5: **Maintain Moisture**

Water the compost pile to keep it damp but not soaked, aiding the decomposition process.

## Step 6: **Turn Pile**

Regularly turn the compost pile every few weeks with a shovel or pitchfork to aerate it and speed up decomposition.

## Step 7: **Monitor Progress**

Check your compost's progress over time. It should be ready when it's dark, crumbly, and has an earthy smell.

## Step 8: **Use Compost**

Harvest your compost and apply it to your garden beds to enrich the soil once it's fully decomposed and mature.

# **General Notes**

## **Material Size**

Chop or shred larger pieces of compostable material to speed up the decomposition process.

## **Balance**

Maintain a good balance between green and brown materials, ideally a 1:3 ratio, to provide enough nitrogen and carbon.

## **Avoid Meat**

Do not compost meat, dairy, or diseased plants, as they can attract pests and cause odor problems.