

Conditions	COMPOST	VERMICOMPOST
Definition	Converts organic materials, leaves, kitchen scraps and garden waste into a valuable product which, when used on gardens, lawns and houseplants, results in healthier plant growth when added to soil.	Process that relies on earthworms and microorganisms to help stabilize active organic materials and convert them to a valuable soil amendment and source of plant nutrients.
Moisture	40%-60% Feels like wrung-out sponge.	80% (limits 60%-90%) Tiny droplets when squeeze.
Temperature	130°-140° F (limits 90°-150° F)	59°-77° F (limits 32°-95° F)
Materials	<p>Browns (Carbon) -Autumn leaves, paper, straw, hay, sawdust, napkins, cardboard, twigs, dryer lint, bark, pine needles, wood ash, stale bread/cereal/spices, corn cobs</p> <p>Greens (Nitrogen) -Grass clippings, veggies, fruit, coffee grounds, tea leaves, manure, spoiled juice, corn packing peanuts, feathers</p>	<p>1 lb of <i>Eisenia fetida</i> worms - natural habitat is rotting vegetation, compost, manure piles.</p> <p>Wet Shredded Bedding -paper, newspaper, coir (coconut husk), leaves</p> <p>Food -veggie/fruit scraps, plate scrapings, coffee grounds/filters, tea bags/leaves, eggshells</p>
NOT ALLOWED	<p>NO meat, bones, fish, dairy products, eggs, oils.</p> <p>NO pet waste.</p> <p>NO plants treated with chemicals.</p> <p>NO weeds or diseased plant parts.</p> <p>NO pressure-treated lumber.</p>	<p>NO meat, grease, oils, bones, dairy products.</p> <p>NO pet waste.</p> <p>NO glossy paper and NO plastic.</p> <p>NO eggs.</p> <p>NO citrus.</p>
Recipe	<p>Combine 3 browns-to-1 green mix in a pile, bin or composter.</p> <p>-4" branches (for aeration)</p> <p>-alternate layers of 4"-5" browns and 2"-3" greens</p> <p>Sprinkle water as add each layer.</p> <p>Top with 4"-5" browns after each addition.</p> <p>Turn pile.</p> <p>Harvest when dark, crumbly material and smells like soil.</p>	<p>Container with lid and holes for aeration and drainage.</p> <p>Moistened bedding (soak 10min, wring out and fluff).</p> <p>1 lb of worms (http://worms.ncsu.edu)</p> <p>Pull back bedding for food and cover well.</p> <p>Rotate burial of food scraps.</p> <p>To harvest: feed on one side for several weeks so most worms will migrate to that side.</p> <p>Harvest other side and add fresh bedding.</p>
Time to compost	<p>Never turn = one year.</p> <p>Weekly turn = several months.</p> <p>Every 3 days = several weeks.</p>	Several weeks
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mulch: Apply up to 3" compost on top of garden. •Soil amendment: Till soil 6"-8" deep and mix no more than 25% compost in soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Established plants: Add 2T per quart potting mix around base of plant, water in. Repeat every 2-4 weeks. •Transplants small containers: add ½ cup to hole prior to planting; larger plants, shrubs, trees: 1-2 cups prior to planting. •Lawn and turf established: 7 lbs/100 sq ft; •New turf: 10 lbs/100 sq ft.