



# Slane Sustainability

## Composting Guide



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# What is Compost?

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A mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land

Home composters use kitchen scraps, coffee, and other kitchen refuse to create their “pile.”



# You Should Know

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1. **Compost is not the same thing as soil.** It is decomposed material that adds nutrients to the soil. Helps with structure, and increases microorganisms that help pull micronutrients from the soil into the roots of the plant.
2. Compost makes more nutrients available due to its additional *fryability*.
3. **Fryability** - how crumbly is the soil? You wouldn't try to grow veg in GA red clay - you want a more aerated structure.
4. Finished compost should smell like the **forest floor** because we are recreating the decomposition process that happens naturally.



# Ingredients

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- **Green:** green in color, alive, high nitrogen content. Coffee grounds are considered green due to high nitrogen content.
- fresh lawn clippings
  - coffee grounds
  - vegetables & fruits
  - other kitchen scraps
- **Brown:** carbon sources, add more of this.
- pizza boxes
  - cardboard
  - dead leaves & sticks
  - brown paper bags

## NO ANIMAL PRODUCTS OR BY PRODUCTS

### Brown carbon-rich

- dry leaves
- straw and hay
- shrub prunings
- pine needles/cones
- chopped twigs/branches
- wood ash
- newspaper
- shredded paper (avoid glossy paper)
- cardboard (shredded)
- corn cobs, stalks
- dryer lint (from natural fibers)
- sawdust (from untreated wood)
- eggshells
- brown paper bags (shredded)

### Green nitrogen-rich

- table scraps
- fruit scraps
- vegetable scraps
- fresh grass clippings
- lawn and garden weeds (if they have not gone to seed)
- flowers
- seaweed and kelp
- chicken manure
- coffee grounds/filters
- tea leaves (loose or in bags)
- corn cobs, stalks
- hedge clippings
- garden waste
- fresh leaves

# Three Bin System

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# Bin One

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1. **New organic material.**
  - a. Only bin in which to add green materials. Needs plenty of air and water. We want the contents moist, not soggy.
2. **Chop everything** down to pretty small increments.
3. **Ratio:** About 2:1 or 3:1.
  - a. For every “pail” of green add two to three pails of brown. You want to layer it and have a 4 -6 inch layer of brown. This will help control smell as well.
4. **Don't add really aggressive weeds** or anything else you wouldn't want popping up in your garden later.
5. You can turn bin one too often!!
  - a. **Turn a new pile once a week at most.** Over turning means the microorganisms don't have a chance to eat and grow.
6. When you're turning, dump your whole bin out, add some brown (if it's wet) and shovel it back into the bin.
7. **Transfer** after 4 to 6 weeks.
  - a. When there are no big, whole pieces and everything is in some form of decomposition. Pause in adding fresh material for a week or two to ensure smooth transfer.



# Bin Two

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1. **Turn compost every couple of weeks** at most in the same way.
  - a. Dump all material out onto a tarp, stir, and put back in. This bin needs lots of air. Don't really add anything, only a bit of brown if it gets wet.
2. When turning, **sort through** and pull out anything that isn't breaking down quickly, and add back to bin one.
3. **Transfer** after 6-8 weeks.



# Bin Three

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- This is the finished pile.
- It is now “**curing**,” and should look “**fluffy**.”
- When it’s ready for use, **sift** the compost in this stage, like you’re panning for gold.
- Any particulate that isn’t fully broken down can be added back to bin two.





Here to Help

Urban Farm Plans

Terranova Compost

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1. There is no wrong way to compost!
2. 3:1 ratio is healthiest
3. Coffee grounds are GOLD

