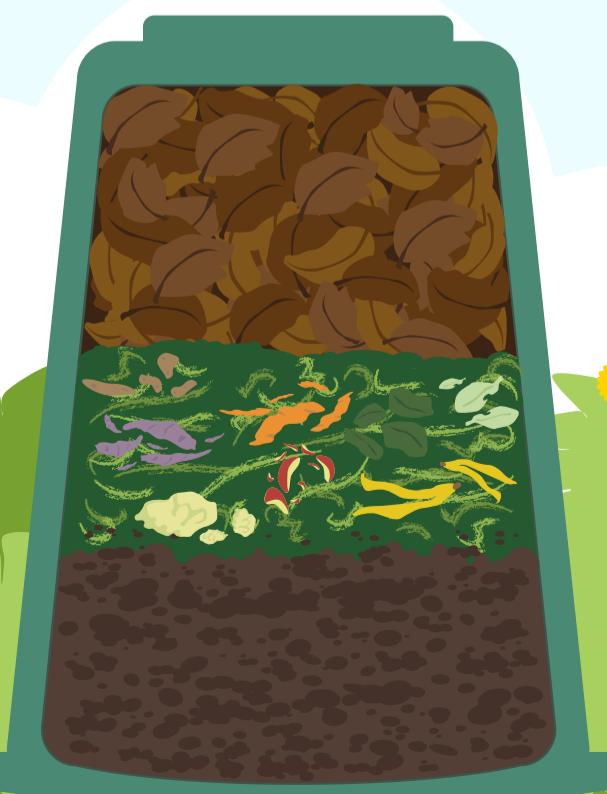


Traditional Composting



Compost

Using a compost bin with a lid will protect your compost from waterproof material for the bin to ensure that it lasts a long time. This is most suitable for small amounts of compost, and can be used at home or in small gardens.

Why Compost?

Compost is a valuable organic soil additive that can improve clayey soil. Organic matter in compost helps to make the soil softer, improves drainage, and introduces nutrients to the soil and keep it cool in hot weather. Compost can also be used as a mulch to help retain water in the soil and reduce the amount of money spent to the landfill.

Scan the QR code for a composting demonstration on our NParksSG YouTube Channel or visit go.gov.sg/compostingdemo



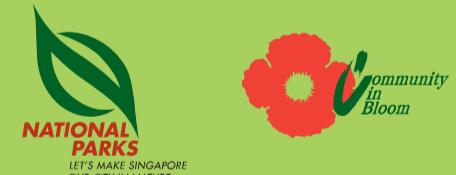
For more information, visit our website at

www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more information on plants in Singapore, visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb

For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources

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Composting is a process in which organic material is broken down by bacteria and other microorganisms via decomposition. The resulting material is called compost, which can be used for gardening. There are many ways to do composting and this brochure features information on traditional composting.

Compost is a valuable soil additive for any garden, big or small. Mixing compost into your soil can improve drainage, increase organic matter and help your plants grow better.

We hope that this brochure will encourage you to start composting on your own or in your community garden.

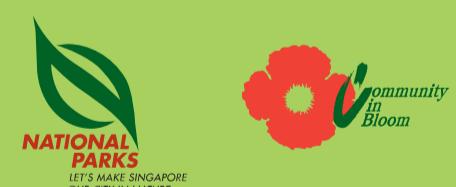


*If the carbon to nitrogen ratio is too low, there may be an unpleasant odor due to having too much nitrogen.

- The ideal ratio of carbon to nitrogen for aerobic composting is 2 to 3 parts carbon for each part nitrogen by weight.
- Place the container in a well-ventilated area and weed free for safe use around the garden.
- Ensure that the composting bin has ventilation holes.
- Check your compost regularly.
- Aerobic composting, also known as traditional composting, requires oxygen for the decomposition process. This prevents the compost from smelling rank.

About Community in Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.



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What is Traditional Composting?



Compost is traditionally made by mixing organic garden and kitchen waste materials in a bin or a pile and regularly introducing oxygen. The microorganisms then break down these materials into compost. The whole process is called aerobic decomposition, and when done correctly, should not result in any unpleasant smells. Traditional composting can be done in plastic bins, wire mesh cages, upcycled plastic containers and other waterproof containers with some form of drainage. The compost should have a waterproof cover in the form of a plastic lid or tarp to protect it from the rain. Mature compost can be used to improve soil for gardening as an organic soil additive.

What can I compost?

Compostable materials are sorted into 'browns' and 'greens'. 'Brown' materials supply carbon as an energy source for the microorganisms in the compost pile, while 'green' materials provide the nitrogen needed for the microorganisms to grow and function. Cutting compostable materials into small pieces will speed up the decomposition process. Managing what goes into your compost is key in controlling unpleasant odours and pests. Here are some common materials you can add to your compost:

Browns	Greens	Not suitable for composting

Steps to starting and maintaining a compost bin

1 Setting up your compost bin

- Put the compost bin in a shady area, away from direct sunlight.
- Fill one-third of the container with garden soil or bought compost (and/or wood shavings and sawdust)
- Fill the remaining space in the bin with alternating layers of 'greens' and 'browns'; by weight, there should be 2 to 3 parts of 'browns' for every 1 part of 'greens'
- Add tap water until moist but not dripping wet
- Mix the contents thoroughly, cover the bin and leave it alone for one week

2 Maintaining your compost bin

- Once every week, use a garden fork or shovel to turn the mixture for air circulation
- Ensure that the mixture is not too wet or dry – add more 'browns' if too wet, and more water if too dry
- The mixture should always be kept moist but not dripping wet
- Instead of throwing away your garden or kitchen waste, you can use it as 'greens' in your compost. Add a comparable amount of 'browns' to maintain the 2-to-3:1 ratio
- Mix each time new material is added

3 Composting and preparing for use

- Depending on the organic materials added and size of the container, most materials should break down into mature compost in 3 to 6 months
- Due to the continuous addition of new material to the compost, there will always be some material that is not completely broken down
- Sieve out the mature compost for use in the garden
- Mature compost should be dark brown or black with a soft, crumbly texture and an earthy smell
- Any remaining uncomposted material can be returned to the compost bin



Sample recipe for setting up a traditional compost bin