



Managing Yard Waste

Reduce

- Right Plant for the Location –
 - Right mature size - Don't generate waste
- Plants with eco-friendly value
 - Native, non-native, both
 - Non-invasive
 - Water wise, Pest resistant, Low maintenance with high aesthetic value

Reuse

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Put Fall Leaves to work in your landscape
 - Leaves shredded and left in place
 - Leaves as mulch, soil amendment...
- Annual Weeds NOT flowering or gone to seed - mulch

Recycle

- Composting – easy and attractive
 - Attractive and Convenient ways to include in your landscape
https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/garden-landscape-design/hiding-the-inner-workings-of-the-garden?ccm_paging_p=25
 - Use wood waste in the landscape
 - Arbors, wattle fences....
<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/creating-a-wattle-fence>

Composting Benefits

- Provides a variety of essential plant nutrients over time
- Suppresses disease and insect pests common in poor soils
- Keeps plant based kitchen scraps and garden waste out of the landfills
- Reduces rainwater & fertilizer run-off into our waterways
- Keeps rainwater where it falls; you'll water less and conserve water

Composting Options

Composting Sod

- Place greenside down in compost pile
- Create raised beds

Trench Composting

- <https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/trench-composting>

Lasagna Gardening

- Variation of sheet composting to create raised bed
<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/build-great-garden-soil-with-lasagna-gardening>

Hugelkultur Gardening – Mound Gardening

- Recycle logs, branches and garden debris into raised bed
<https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/hugelkultur-hill-or-mound-gardening>

Greiten Technique

- Compost, raised bed and rotation planting strategy
https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/composting-and-raised-bed-gardening-together-in-any-space?ccm_paging_p=19

Composting Basics

Place in a heap and let it rot – the more you do the sooner you'll have compost

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sj02a8ropc>

DO COMPOST THESE

Greens (nitrogen rich)

Fruit and veggie kitchen scraps

Vegetable clippings

Herbicide-free grass clippings

Manure

Seaweed and Kelp

Browns (Carbon rich)

Fall leaves

Evergreen Needles

Non-glossy paper and cardboard

(some concern with these by some people)

Cornstalks and corncobs

Straw and Hay

DON'T COMPOST THESE

Bones, Meat, Fish, Fat and Dairy

Disease and Insect infested plant Material

Perennial and invasive Weeds

Weeds gone to Seed

Charcoal ashes

Grass clippings from lawn recently treated with chemicals

Pet, Bird and Human waste

Dealing with Problem Plant Debris

Invasive Plants

https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/problems-pests-weeds/managing-invasive-plants?ccm_paging_p=2

Pest Infested Material

https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/problems-pests-weeds/how-to-dispose-of-diseased-plant-material-and-weeds?ccm_paging_p=22

Locate Pile

Sun verses shade

Well-drained

Convenient

for adding raw materials and harvesting compost

easy access to water

Building the Compost Pile

Build on twigs or pallet covered with hardware cloth if drainage is an issue

8-10" layers of green debris

Layer of compost

Sprinkle 3 cups Milorganite over compost

Repeat until pile is at least 3 feet tall and wide

Moisten to consistency of damp sponge

Turn to speed up decomposition

Harvest Finished compost in about 6 to 12 months

Worm Composting

https://www.melindamyers.com/audio-video/melindas-garden-moment-videos/sustainable-gardening/worm-composting?ccm_paging_p=2

Step by Step directions

<https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/worm-composter>

Purchase or Create your own worm bin –

Recycling and storage containers work great

2x2' container for 2 people, 2x3 for 4 people

8-12" deep

One pound of red worms can process ½ pound of kitchen scraps per day

Drainage holes in bottom of bin and something to capture compost tea

Plant based kitchen scraps only

Moistened Shredded paper is bedding

Handful of compost

Add kitchen scraps

Shredding speeds decomposition

Cover with paper

Harvesting castings

Worm farms – have layers for easy harvesting

Dump, place in pile and use flashlight to drive worms to bottom

Push finished compost to one side, add fresh bedding and compostables

Wait for worms to migrate to fresh bedding

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