

Easy Composting

Composting transforms kitchen and yard wastes into rich humus that amends the soil. Worried that it is too difficult or too much work? Don't be. There are many easy ways to recycle leaves, excess grass clippings, weeds and other plant wastes into compost.

Sheet method — spread a thin (1-2") layer of grass, leaves or other plant material over the soil surface. Time, weather and microorganisms will eventually turn this material into compost.

Trench method — dig a trench, fill it with plant waste and cover with soil, or use plant waste to mulch the pathways of your garden.

Pile method — just throw your plant wastes in a heap and let it rot. Or use a compost bin to keep things neater. Add seed-free weeds, cut grass, kitchen scraps like vegetable peelings and coffee grounds, and raked leaves. In time everything will decay, but to speed the process, water when dry and turn the contents periodically.

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Additional Resources

Composting

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PUBL-SW-182 93, *Home Composting: The Complete Composter*, at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/wa/wa182.pdf>
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PUB-WA-072 2001, *Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits* (a brochure), at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/wa1149.pdf>

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