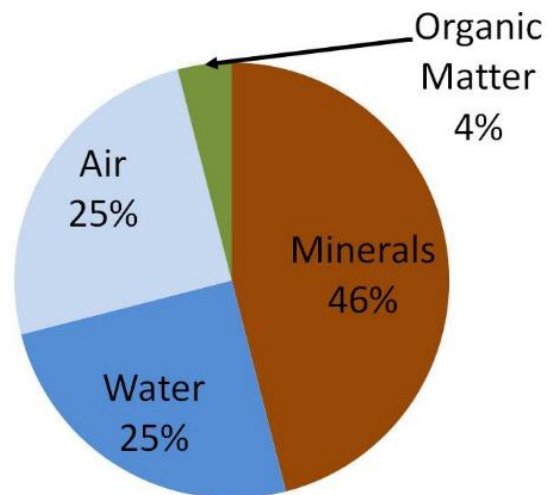


Compost Cheat Sheet

Soil composition

Increasing organic matter will improve structure, hold moisture, add nutrients, increase soil life and sequester carbon.



Starting a pile

- Minimum 1m³
- 5-10cm layers of brown and green
- Moisture; a few drops should come from a handful of compost
- Keep covered
- Brown:Green 50:50 by volume

Troubleshooting

- **Smelly?** Too wet or too much N; add C and/or turn pile.
- **Not composting?** Too dry or too much C; add N and/or water.
- **Too cold?** Lack of N, pile too small, not layered; increase size, ensure layers of C and N, turn pile.

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