

Bates Nursery Botanical Bootcamp

Composting



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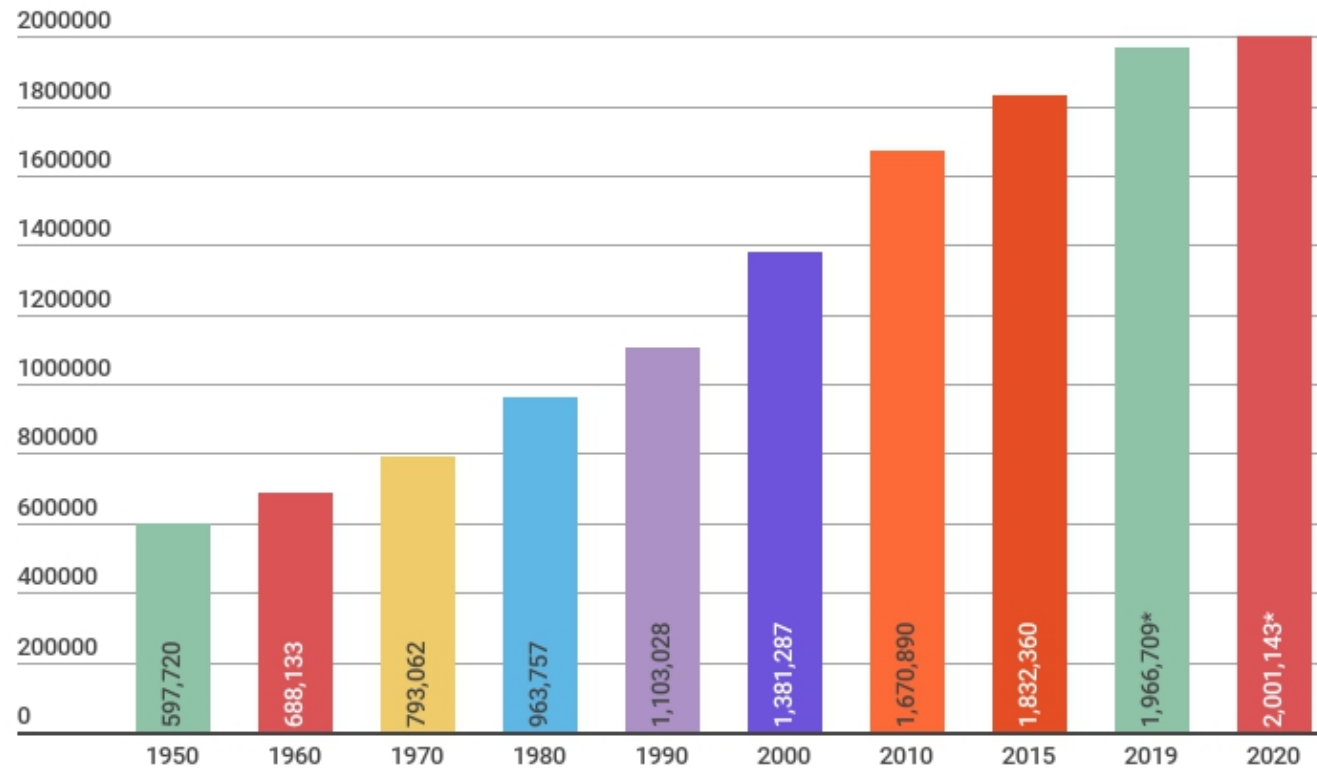


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2026 EXPORTING TRASH

The Nashville Area's March Toward 2 Million Residents



Population totals are based on current 14-county configuration of Nashville metropolitan statistical area

Sources: Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, U.S. Census Bureau

*Population projection

**Paper
Food Waste
Yard Waste
Wood**

2/3 in landfill is organic

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING?

Enriches soil
structure

Greater
disease
resistance

Greater water
retention

Reduces soil
erosion

Protects water
quality

Supplies slow-
release
nutrients

Keeping Organics Out Of The Landfill

Blue Horse Farmette Organics Hierarchy:

#1 People Food – Home or Restaurant

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#2 Protein – Dogs

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#4 Coffee grounds, eggshells, off food, citrus, onions, garlic, chicken bedding, manure, yard & garden, OCC, paper – COMPOST PILE

Optimum Composting

Oxygen >5%

Moisture 40-60%

Carbon : Nitrogen 30:1

Temperature 90 – 140°

Oxygen >5%

Anaerobic/Cold Limited Oxygen

SLOW & SMELLY

Aerobic/ Hot Incorporate Oxygen

QUICK & EARTHY

Anaerobic/Cold - SLOW & SMELLY

Piled up 6 – 18 months

Hydrogen sulfide (egg smell), mercaptans (skunk smell), ammonia, acetic acid (vinegar)

Produces methane gas

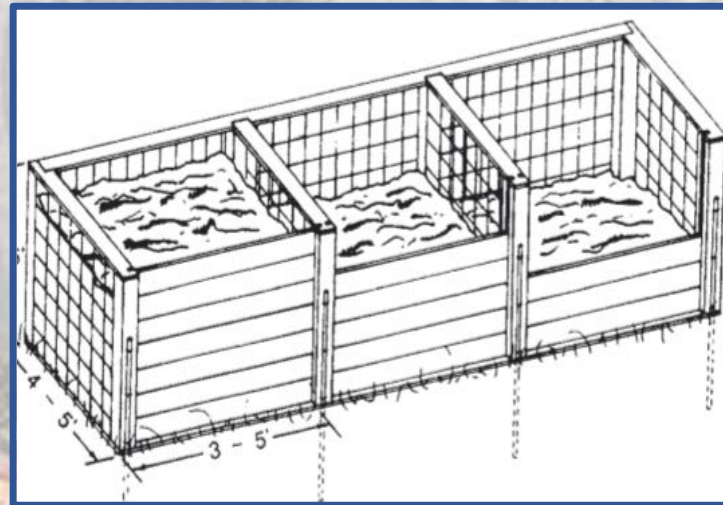
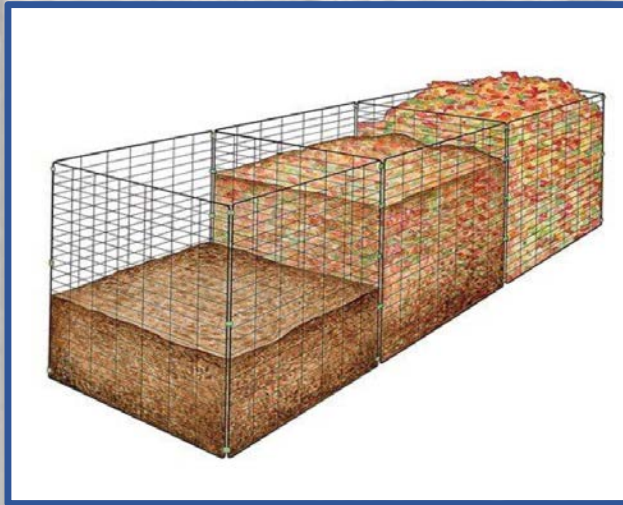


Aerobic/ Hot – QUICK & EARTHY

Turned - 2 weeks – 2 months

Turn daily – as little as 2 weeks

Turn first 10-15 days, every other day - 2 months

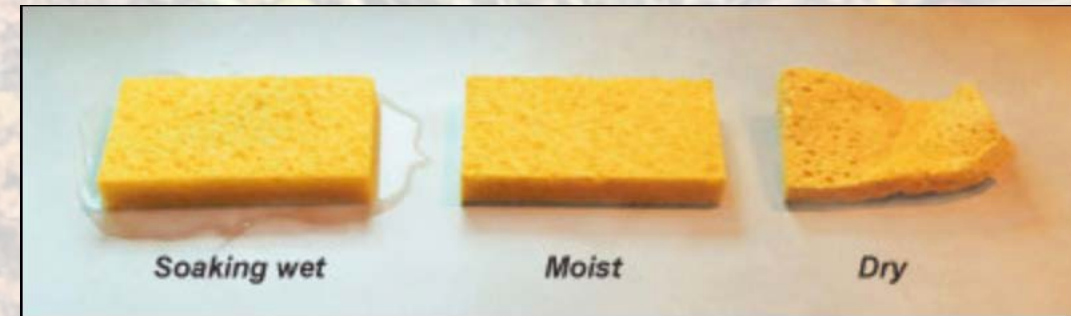


Moisture 40-60%

Fungal threads while maintaining air

Cover during wet or dry times

Squeeze a handful



Carbon : Nitrogen 30:1

Carbon sources:

Straw woodchips & shavings pine needles sawdust
wood ash (not charcoal) cardboard & non-slick paper
dried leaves



Carbon is anything with ratio over 50:1

Materials High in Carbon	C:N
Autumn Leaves	50:1 - 85:1
Pine needles	60:1 - 110:1
Straw	80:1 - 100:1
Tree bark	100:1 - 130:1
Wood chips or shavings	100:1 - 300:1
Mixed Paper or newspaper	150:1 - 200:1
Cardboard	560:1
Sawdust	500:1 - 625:1

Carbon : Nitrogen 30:1

Nitrogen sources:

Fresh Leaves Food Scraps Coffee Grounds Grass
Garden Waste Manure Human & Animal Hair

Materials High in Nitrogen	C:N
Manure	5:1 - 25:1
Food Scraps	15:1 - 20:1
Grass Clippings	15:1 - 25:1
Hair	15:1
Coffee Grounds	20:1
Fresh Leaves	35:1 -50:1

Temperature 90 – 140°



90°

**Kills weed
seeds and
disease**



140°



Pulling
it all
Together

- **COMPOST ALL ORGANICS**
- Become the leaf thief of your neighborhood
- Up the oxygen through turning
- Get moisture right – wrung out sponge – particle size
- Brown and Green ratio
- Get it hot – between warm and scream
 - Carpet or bubble wrap
 - Hot water bottle

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Get a countertop
collection container.

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Use old compost to seed your new pile with fungal threads.

Compost Nashville
Compost Company
Public Works
Whole Food Market

**If you don't have
room to compost,
send your organics to
someone who does.**

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