

OUR FAMILY CAN COMPOST

Composting is the natural recycling system of decomposition, which converts organic material into a dark soil-like material called **compost**. In nature, soil organisms (decomposers) digest organic material such as leaves, dead plants, and animals. There are many different ways to manage a composter, but successful composting means providing the conditions in which the decomposer organisms will flourish. They need food, air, water, and a habitable temperature. A healthy compost pile has a mix of high-carbon "**brown/dry**" materials and nitrogen-rich "**green/wet**" materials.

In the spaces below, identify items found in your home, garden, or yard that can serve as components for a backyard composter.



Brown/Dry _____

Green/Wet _____

Discuss how a backyard composter works (what's happening with the materials you put in) and then write a short paragraph describing the process.