

Lasagna Gardening & Composting:

In our lasagna garden, we are starting with an empty garden box. The box is 12' W x 12' L x 10" D, so it is a pretty large area. Thin layers of damp non-glossy newspaper layer the bottom of the box. *Layers of brown and green materials are incorporated into the lasagna bed. (Think of the process of making a meat & vegetable lasagna.) Brown composting materials such as dried leaves, woody materials, newspaper, dried grass, and straw are added because of the amount of carbon they contain. Green materials such as grass clippings, green plant materials, coffee grounds, used tea bags, fruit & vegetable peelings, and egg shells are great additions to a compost pile.

*It is helpful to chop the large fruit and vegetable peelings into smaller pieces so they breakdown quicker. Kitchen scraps & tea bags cannot have anything added to them. For example: no oils, butter, dressing, milk, or sugar. Egg shells should be washed and crushed before adding them to the compost pile. Larger plant material(s) should be made into smaller pieces. Many times the dried plant material may be crushed either by stepping on it or by hand. Each of these tips should speed up the decomposition process.

A compost pile needs to have a mixture of moist & dry materials as well as oxygen. Air needs to flow throughout the pile to speed up the rotting process. If the compost heap dries out a little water should be added onto the pile. By layering the brown & green materials it is easier to allow pockets of space so air and water may move throughout the compost heap.