

Bellevue Friendship Garden – Basic Composting Guidelines (2023)

What To Compost

- Fruits and vegetables
- Eggshells
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Nut shells
- Shredded newspaper
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Yard trimmings
- Grass clippings
- Houseplants
- Hay and straw
- Leaves
- Sawdust
- Wood chips
- Cotton and Wool Rags
- Hair and fur
- Fireplace ashes

What Not to Compost and Why

- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
 - Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
- Coal or charcoal ash
 - Might contain substances harmful to plants
- Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)

- Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
- Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs
 - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
 - Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
 - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Meat or fish bones and scraps
 - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
 - Might kill beneficial composting organisms
- Tree-of-heaven branches, saplings, or root suckers
 - Can root in moist soil, so composting is not advised. Preferred food source for Spotted Lanternfly
- Plastic plant labels, ties, and planting pots, produce stickers
 - Non-biodegradable