

# Bellevue Friendship Garden – Composting Guidelines (2025)

## Compost Membership Overview

By becoming a compost member, you gain access to an environmentally responsible way to dispose of your kitchen scraps and other compostable materials, all while contributing to nutrient-rich compost that benefits the garden.

Follow these simple guidelines to help us maintain a clean, efficient, and successful composting program.

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## What To Compost

- Fruits and vegetables
- Eggshells
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Nut shells
- Shredded newspaper
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Yard trimmings
- Houseplants
- Straw
- Brown leaves
- Sawdust
- Cotton and wool rags
- Hair and fur
- Fireplace ashes

## What Not to Compost and Why

- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
  - May release substances that might be harmful to plants
- Coal or charcoal ash
  - May contain substances harmful to plants
- Pet waste (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)
  - May contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
- Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs
  - May create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
  - Diseases or insects may survive and be transferred back to other plants
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
  - May create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies

- Meat or fish bones and scraps
    - May create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
  - Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
    - May kill beneficial composting organisms
  - Tree-of-heaven branches, saplings, or root suckers (preferred food source for Spotted Lanternfly)
    - May root in moist soil, so composting is not advised
  - Plastic plant labels, ties, and planting pots, produce stickers
    - Non-biodegradable
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### **How to Use the Compost Bin:**

1. **Deposit Proper Materials:** Only add approved items listed above. If you're not sure if an item can be added to the compost bin, check with the garden coordinator.
2. **Layer Appropriately:** Mix "green" materials (food scraps) with "brown" materials (straw, brown leaves).
3. **Break it Down:** Cut large items into smaller pieces to speed up decomposition -chop up kitchen scraps and crush eggshells before adding them to the pile.
4. **Cover the Pile:** Always cover fresh scraps with a layer straw or other brown material provided near the bins.

Following these steps ensures a healthy balance of greens and browns, which helps the compost break down properly and reduces odors.

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### **Member Responsibilities:**

- Regularly contribute appropriate waste
  - Follow bin layering and covering guidelines
  - Keep the compost area clean and tidy
  - Report any pest or odor issues to garden staff
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### **Benefits for Members:**

- Reduced household waste
  - Participation in a sustainable community effort
  - Access to compost for garden use
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### **Questions or Issues?**

Contact Leann Chaney at [leann@bonafidebellevue.org](mailto:leann@bonafidebellevue.org) or 724.422.1335

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