



Bona Fide Bellevue - Friendship Garden: Composting Guidelines (2026)

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.

What To Compost

- Fruits and vegetables
- Eggshells (crushed)
- 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 to the bin labeled, “add to”. 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 (e.g., 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.

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 or 724.422.1335
