

## Windrow Composting

Windrow composting is a method of aerobic composting in which organic materials are arranged in long, narrow piles, or windrows, that are regularly turned to maintain oxygen flow and promote microbial decomposition. Turning the rows helps regulate temperature, moisture, and airflow, all of which support efficient microbial activity. Windrow systems are valued for their cost-effectiveness and scalability. It is the most common composting method in the U.S.

### What to Feed Your Windrow:

**Ratios:** Use roughly 1 part green to 3 parts brown for the best results.

### Greens (Nitrogen - Provides Moisture & Nutrients):

- Fruit and vegetable scraps/peels -chop into small pieces and remove labels for best results
- Coffee grounds and paper filters
- Fresh grass clippings and green garden waste
- Tea bags (ensure they are paper/plastic-free)

### Browns (Carbon - Provides Air & Structure):

- Dry leaves
- Corrugated cardboard
- Shredded cardboard and paper (no wax/gloss)
- Dry grass clippings and hay/straw

### What NOT to Compost

- Meat, fish, poultry, and bones (attracts pests)
- Dairy products, oils, and grease
- Pet waste (dog/cat feces)
- Diseased plants or weeds with mature seeds
- Glossy or coated paper/magazines
- Labels, stickers, twist ties, staples

### Best Practices

**Aerate:** Turn the pile regularly.

**Moisten when needed:** All piles need moisture, air, and heat to decompose.

**Temperature:** Monitor the pile's temperature to ensure it does not get too hot.

**Windrows do not need to be covered, but it is recommended to control moisture, increase nutrient retention, manage odor, and protect the pile from weather and critters. Use a semi-permeable breathable fabric**