
Sample Pile Construction

- 1st layer: 3-4" of chopped brush or other coarse material (air circulation)
- 2nd layer: 6-8" of mixed scraps, leaves, grass clippings, etc.
- 3rd layer: 1" of soil serves as an microbial inoculant
- 4th layer: (optional) 2-3" of manure to provide the nitrogen needed by microorganisms
- Repeat until desired height/volume

Factors that Impact the Process

- Materials – the “Food”
- Air – Oxygen needed for organisms
- Moisture – Water dissolves organic molecules
- Temperature – Determines speed of process
- Particle size – Affects rate of breakdown
- Volume – Determines heat retention

Sample C:N Ratios Chart

Food wastes	15:1
Sawdust, wood, paper	400:1
Straw	80:1
Grass clippings	15:1
Leaves	50:1
Fruit wastes	35:1
Rotted manures	20:1
Cornstalks	60:1
Alfalfa hay	12:1

RESOURCES:

Speak with a Master Gardener
 Prescott MG Help Desk - 928-445-6590
 prescottmg@gmail.com
 840 Rodeo Dr, #C
 Prescott, AZ 86305

Yavapai County Agriculture Extension Website
<http://extension.arizona.edu/yavapai/>

