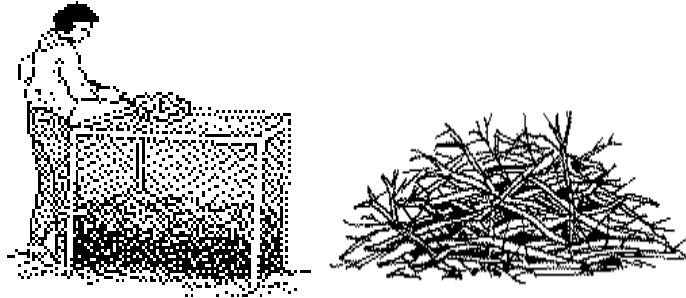


# Composting



The City of Atlanta collects over 30,000 tons of yard and garden material each year. Much of that material can be easily composted at home instead of being sent to the City facility. Composting grass and leaves at home is an easy and inexpensive way to add nutrients to home gardens, bushes, and trees. If you don't want to wait for leaves and grass to turn into compost, use the blend as mulch around trees and bushes and as a topical dressing on flower beds. This will keep the roots cool, improve soil moisture retention, and as the mulch breaks down it will slowly provide nutrients for the plants, bushes and trees.

Follow these links to find out more about composting and mulching techniques:

<http://www.mycoville.com/us/ga/residential-recycling-programs/composting-yard-trimmings>

<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/EnvironmentalManagement/publications/composting.pdf>

[http://www.georgiaorganics.org/growing/amendments\\_practices.php](http://www.georgiaorganics.org/growing/amendments_practices.php)

<http://www.southface.org>

## **Compost Demonstration sites near Atlanta** (call before visiting):

ATHENS: near the University of Georgia campus, maintained by the University of Georgia Grounds Department (Phone: 706-542-7531)

ATLANTA: at 156 Heaton Park Drive, maintained by the Fernbank Science Center (Phone: 404-378-4314 ext. 318)

ROSWELL: All the Roswell, Georgia recycling stations now have compost demonstration sites. They offer a wide variety of recycling options, including Goodwill charity depositories, tree chipping service and the backyard composting demonstration. No contact information or addresses available at time of listing. Listed 1/8/97.

<http://www.habershamga.com/composting.cfm>

<http://www.acc-recycle.org/composting.htm>

*If everyone composted their own yard trimmings and food residuals at home, many of the world's environmental problems would disappear.*

# Catch On To Composting!

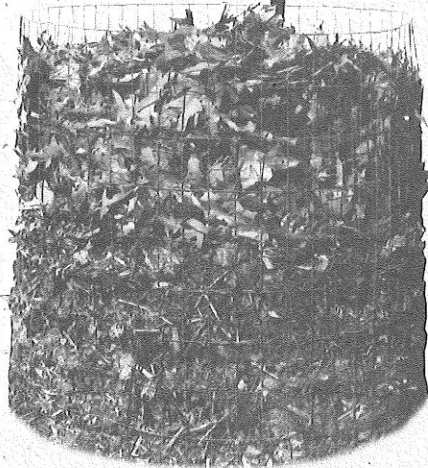
## Composting Your Yard Trimmings Is Easy In 6 Simple Steps.

**1. Choose A Suitable Area To Construct A Compost Pile**

**2. Create A Compost Bin To Contain All Yard Trimmings**

**3. Mix Yard Trimmings Into Compost Pile, Alternating Layers by Color and Type**

**BACKYARD  
COMPOSTING**



**4. Stir The Pile Occasionally and Monitor Its Moisture**

**5. Allow Nature To Work To Decompose Yard Trimmings**

**6. Use Decomposed Yard Trimmings For Mulch When Planting and Gardening**

**B**ecause composting can divert a significant portion of our waste stream away from landfills, it is a necessary component of waste reduction efforts.

**Yard Trimmings Defined:** Yard trimmings can be defined as leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrub and tree prunings, discarded Christmas trees, flowers, etc.

**What Is Composting?** Composting is a natural process where organic materials break down and return to the soil. It happens every day – we just speed up the process by mixing proper amounts of materials and monitoring their progress. The insects, fungi, bacteria and worms in your yard do most of the composting for you. Whatever composting recipe you choose, it is very easy and can be fun. The City of Atlanta has a Home Composting Demonstration Site located at the Outdoor Activity Center where you can see home composting firsthand.

### Composting Is Easy:

- Choose the type of bin which best suits your needs. A wire bin is the easiest and most economical.
- Load the bin with yard trimming material at least halfway full.
- Material should be layered by color to provide the best conditions for the process to begin.

**Composting Benefits:** Proper composting creates HUMUS, a dark, nutrient rich, earthy smelling substance. This composted material, whether made in our own backyards or processed at a facility, can be used to add beneficial micro-organisms and increase the organic content of the soil. It also improves drainage, conserves moisture, moderates soil temperature and suppresses weed growth.

### Yard Trimming Materials You Can Compost:

**GREEN-** Grass Clippings, Weeds, Vegetable Matter

**BROWN-** Leaves, Shredded Newspapers, Straw or Hay

**Do not include** animal fats, meat scraps, sticks, dog or cat feces, dirt, rock, concrete & brick, sod, household garbage or trash.

**Put Waste In Its Proper Place!**