Composting

A guide for residents of the
City of Plantation
Composting is Cool!

- Can be used as mulch to reduce weeds
- Supplies nutrients to your plants
- Improves texture and quality of your soil
- Can help new plantings get started
- Reduces waste
Anyone can compost!
Getting started

• Pick a spot for your compost pile that is out of your way but is accessible with garden hose
• You can build a compost bin with chicken wire and wood, but you don’t absolutely need a bin
Ingredients
Brown “stuff” for carbon

- Dried leaves
- Twigs
Green “stuff” for nitrogen

- Yard trimmings
- Kitchen scraps
Air

- Air comes naturally in a properly aerated pile.
- Turning your pile every week or so gives it the air that it needs.
- Do not water so much that there is no air in the pile.
Water

- Water between layers to keep the pile moist but not overly wet
Micro-organisms

- Micro-organisms are present in the soil that you place over the layers
- They go to work at breaking down the pile
Other items to compost

- Newspaper
- Sawdust
Ingredients to avoid

- Animal by-products: meats, bones, droppings
- Fats, oils, milk products
- These items don’t break down well and invite critters into your yard!
Building your pile

- Layer a few inches of “brown stuff”
- Then a few inches of “green stuff”
- Then a few inches of soil
- Water between each layer
- Repeat
What next?

- Turn your pile with a pitchfork or shovel every few days
- Add some water if it gets dry
What next?

• The pile may start to steam because composting releases heat- you can turn the pile and add a bit of water
• If the pile smells “swampy” it is too wet- turn it and if it rains cover with a tarp
Is it done yet?

- Finished compost is uniform and very dark in color
- It will smell sweet and earthy
- The center of the pile will be cool to the touch- if it is hot it still composting
Now where do I put it?

- Put compost around all of your plants and trees to supply nutrients and reduce weeds
- Put it in new planting holes
- Mix it with your soil to improve its quality
Happy composting!

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