

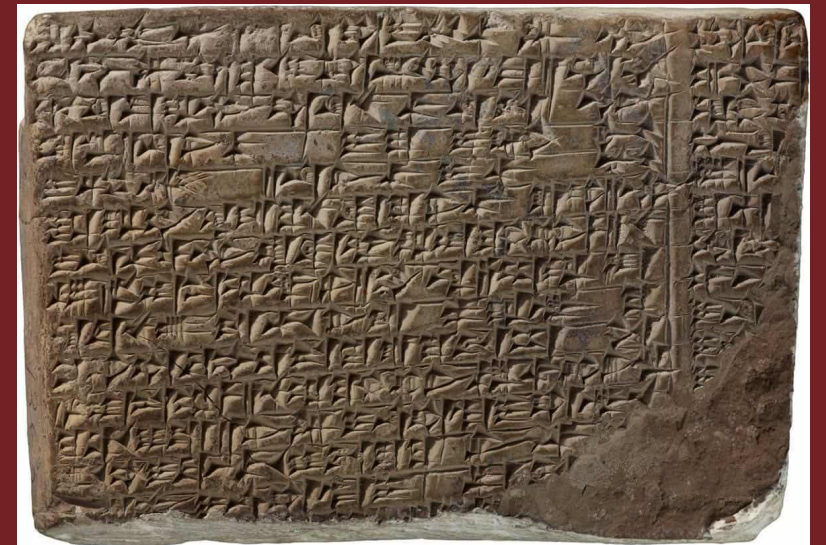


CARE FOR CREATION

**BLACK GOLD IN YOUR
BACKYARD**

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY....

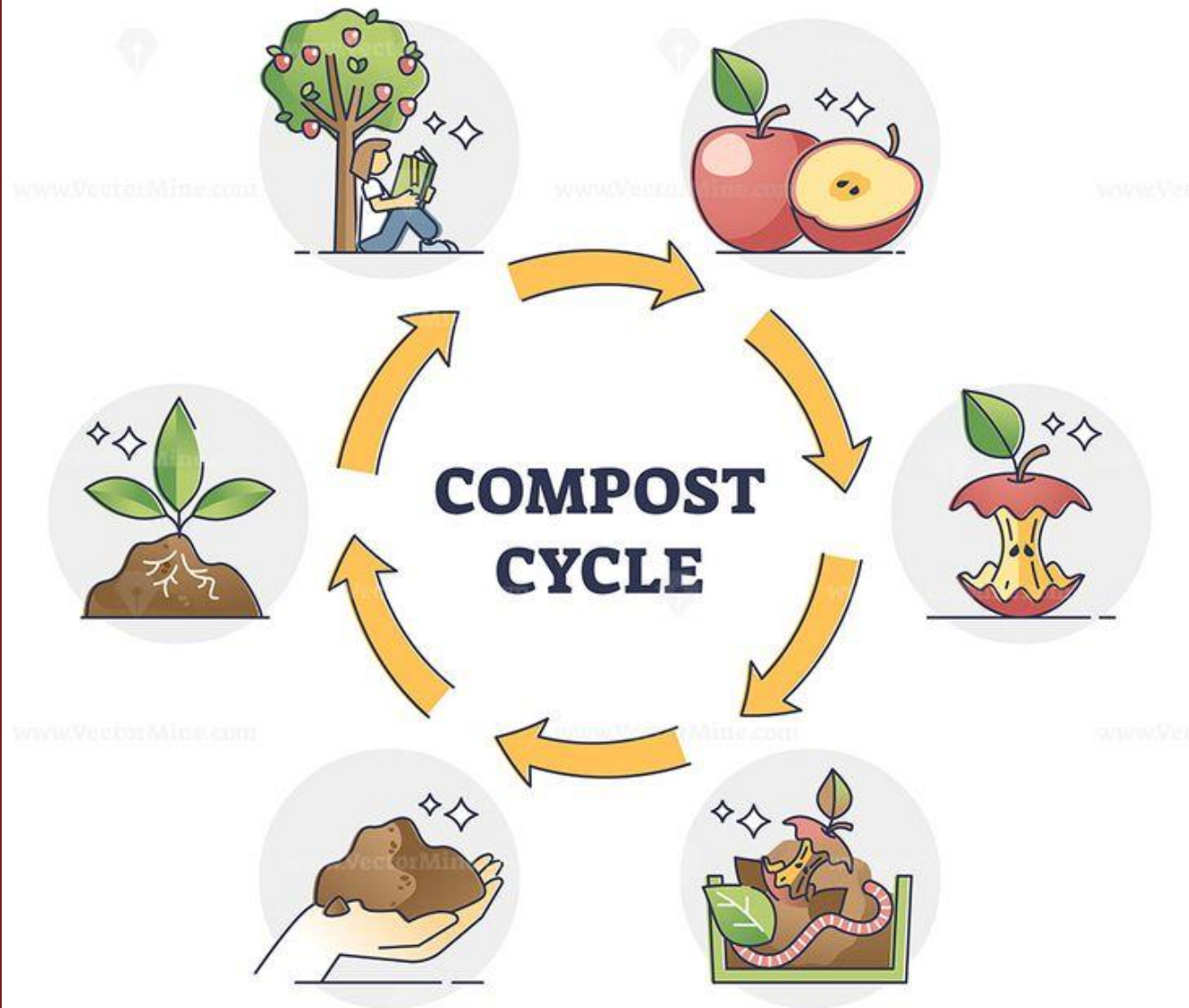
- The Fertile Crescent, encompassing present-day Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Israel
- The earliest recorded references appear on Sumerian clay tablets
- Practiced within Greek, Roman, and Egyptian civilizations
- Utilization of composting techniques involving manure and straw
- Biblical references to dung and dunghills can be found, as in Luke 14:35, which mentions tasteless salt being discarded and deemed unsuitable for soil or manure piles.



WHY COMPOST

- Returns organic matter to the soil in a usable form
- Loosens heavy clay soils
- Improve water holding capacity
- Nutrition is minimal: 1.5% of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, & Potassium





A natural process of recycling organic matter into a valuable fertilizer than can enrich soil and plants.

Provide an ideal environment for bacteria, fungi, worms, sowbugs, nematodes.

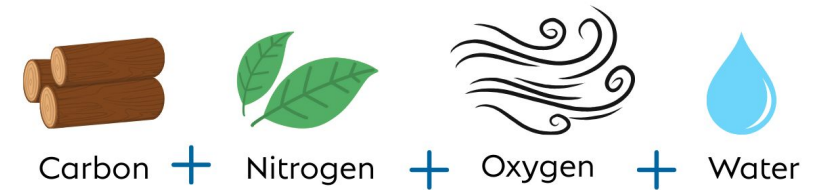
Brown carbon-rich

- dry leaves
- straw and hay
- shrub prunings
- pine needles/cones
- chopped twigs/branches
- wood ash
- newspaper
- shredded paper (avoid glossy paper)
- cardboard (shredded)
- corn cobs, stalks
- dryer lint (from natural fibers)
- sawdust (from untreated wood)
- eggshells
- brown paper bags (shredded)

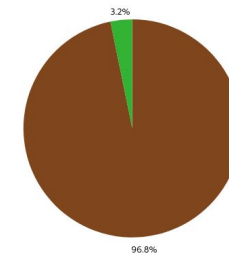
Green nitrogen-rich

- table scraps
- fruit scraps
- vegetable scraps
- fresh grass clippings
- lawn and garden weeds (if they have not gone to seed)
- flowers
- seaweed and kelp
- chicken manure
- coffee grounds/filters
- tea leaves (loose or in bags)
- corn cobs, stalks
- hedge clippings
- garden waste
- fresh leaves

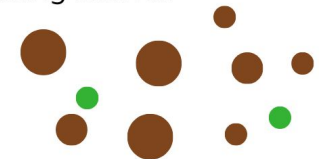
BACKYARD COMPOSTING BASICS

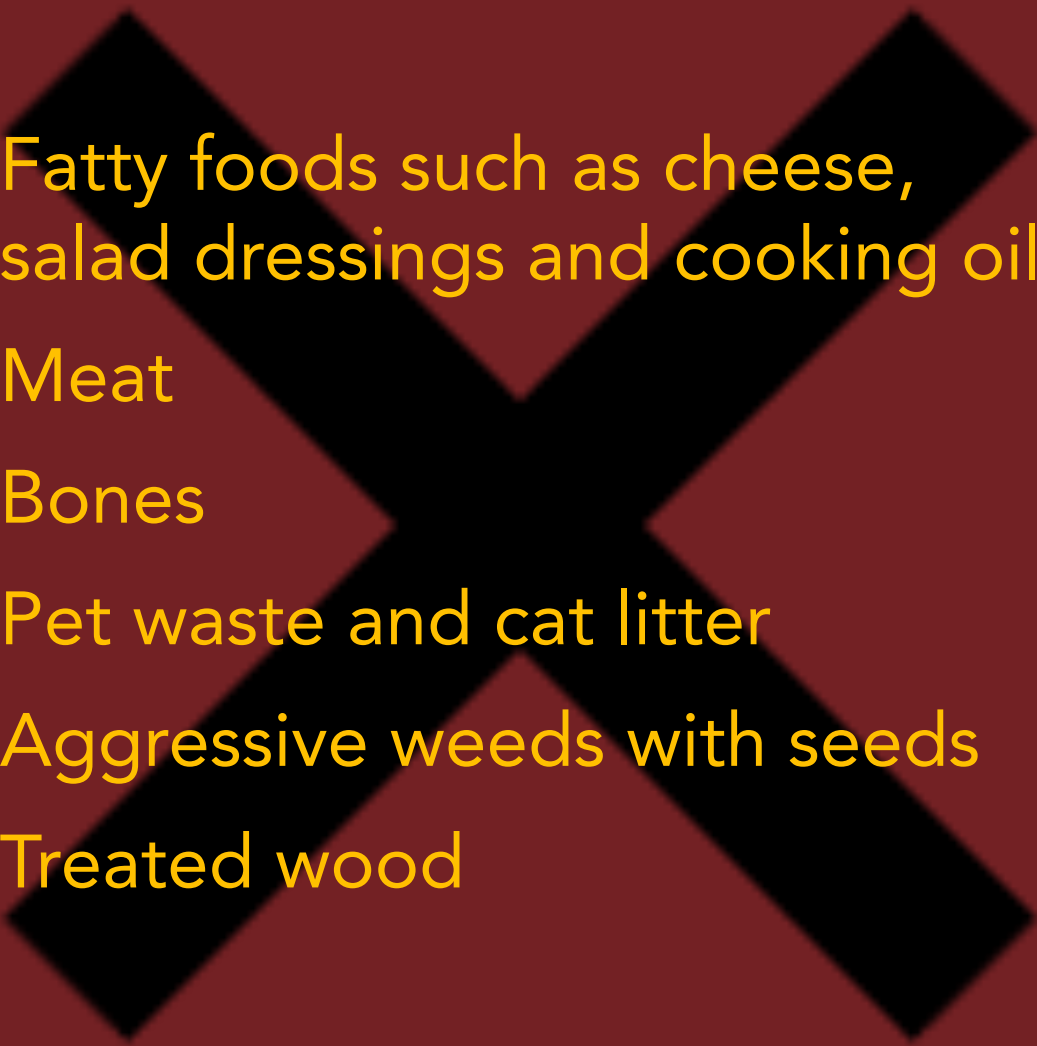


30 Browns: 1 Green



Smaller scraps compost faster - chop them up before tossing them in



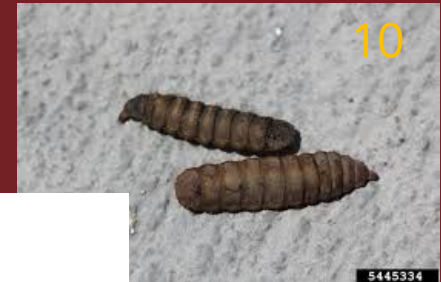
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- Fatty foods such as cheese, salad dressings and cooking oils
 - Meat
 - Bones
 - Pet waste and cat litter
 - Aggressive weeds with seeds
 - Treated wood

WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

These items can ferment, causing odors that attract rodents and other nocturnal animals.



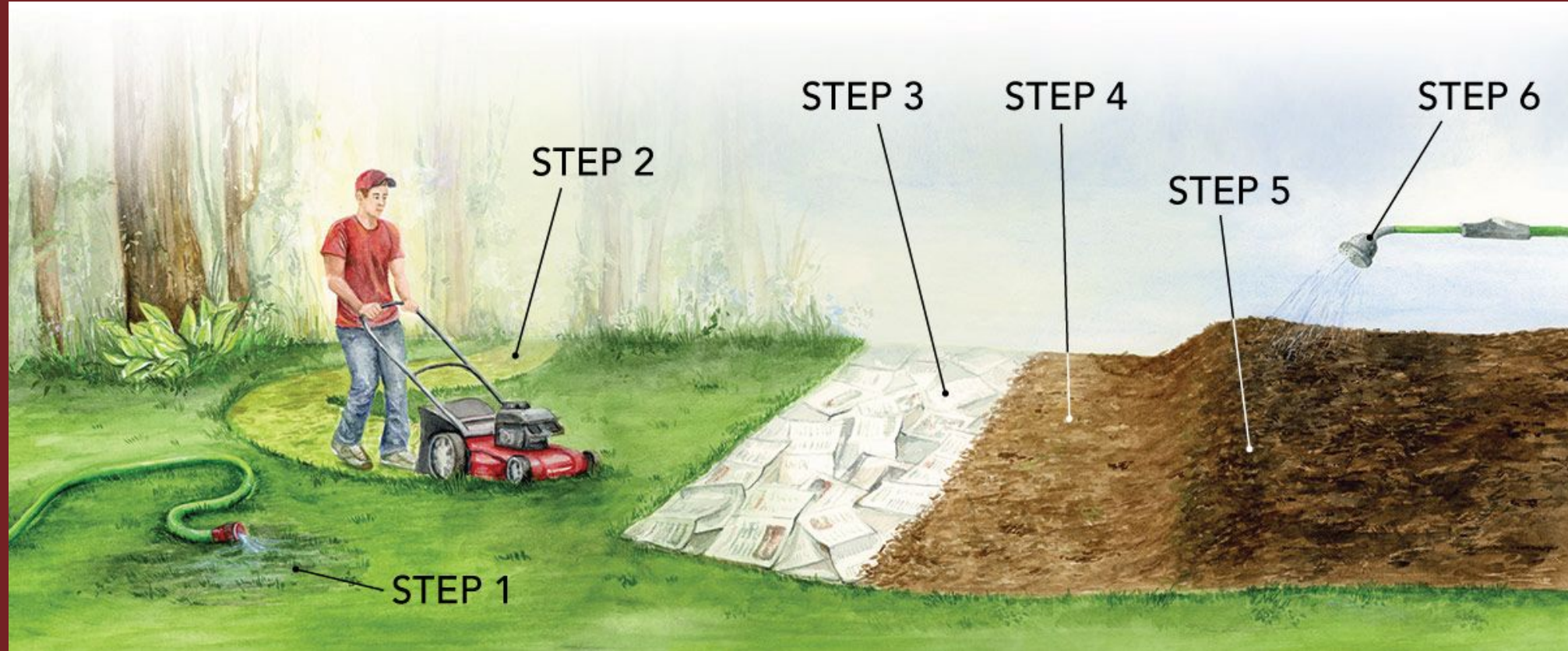
KEY PLAYERS TO DECOMPOSING



TYPES OF COMPOST BINS



COMPACT COMPOSTING – SHEET MULCHING GOOD FOR VEGETABLE OR GARDEN BED



COMPACT COMPOSTING – TRENCH METHOD



- Involves burying kitchen scraps
- Dig an area 8" to 10" wide and 12" deep
- Or dig 12" deep holes in a designated area
- Cover the kitchen scraps with the excavated soil

COMPACT COMPOSTING – ELECTRIC COMPOSTER

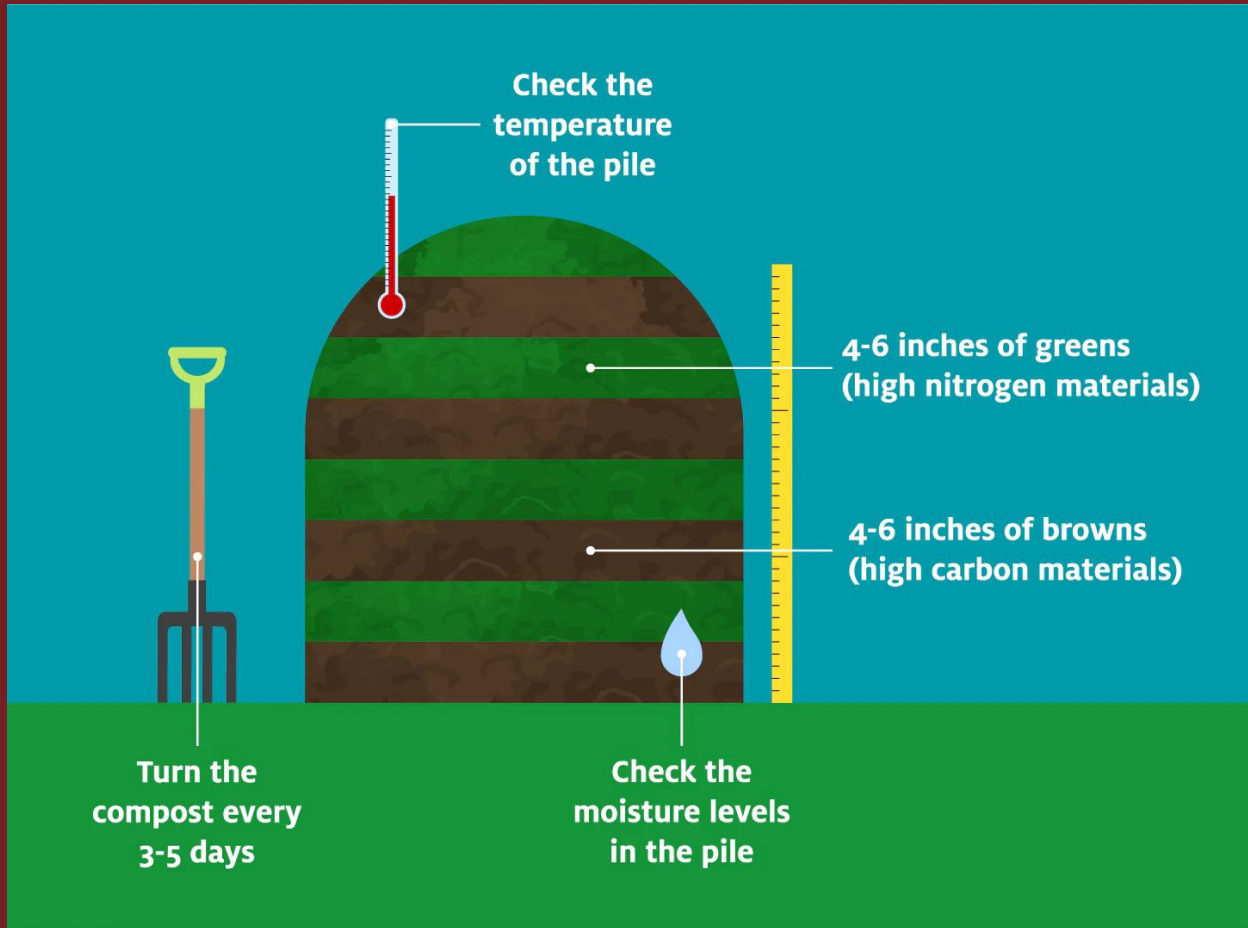
Can fill the bucket with food scraps, including meat and leftovers.

Unit will dry, grind, and cool the material in 5 to 6 hours.

Cost can be \$80 to \$400.

Cannot compost garden trimmings.





- **Want piles 3' to 4' wide and no more than 5' tall**
- **Remove grass/sod from the area where the compost pile will be**
- **Need air to pass between the layers**
- **Add about 1" of soil in between layers**
- **Want temperatures to reach 140° in about a week's time**
- **Moisture content should be 50 to 60% of the total weight basis**

FINISHED COMPOST

- Earthy smell, dark brown, crumbly
- Can be screened to allow further composting for larger organic matter
- Best to start seedlings with vermiculite but finished compost can be added to existing garden soil



TROUBLE SHOOTING

Symptoms	Problem	Solution
The compost has bad odor	Not enough air	Turn pile. Add dry material if pile is too wet
The center of the pile is dry	Not enough water	Moisten and turn pile
Compost is damp & warm only in the middle	Too small of a pile	Mix new and old 'ingredients' into a new pile. Turn pile.
The heap is damp and sweet-smelling but will not heat up	Lack of nitrogen	Mix in nitrogen sources like fresh grass clippings, composted animal manure, bloodmeal, or urea fertilizer



Information Sources

The Ohio State University Extension; Composting at Home; HYG-1189-99; extension.osu.edu

Horticulture Magazine; January/February 2025; hortmag.com

Composting History; carryoncomposting.com

