BROWNS	GREENS	DO NOT USE
Fall Leaves (shredded is great)	Fruit and Vegetable scraps (2)	Meat / Fish scraps and bones (4)
Straw and Pine Needles	Coffee Grounds / Filters	Cheese and Dairy products (4)
Small twigs and Wood Chips (7)	Tea Bags	Fats, Oils and Greases
Newspaper / Newsprint (1)	Fresh Leaves (7)	Diseased Plants (8)
Egg Shells (rinsed and crushed)	Green Plants (7)	Animal Waste / Kitty Litter
Breads and Grains	Pruning and Hedge Trimmings (7)	Large pieces of wood
Wood Ashes (3)	Grass Clippings (6)	Invasive Weeds / Seeds (5)
Old Potting Soil and Spent Plants	Hay	Herbicide / Pesticide treated (6)
Dried Flowers	Weeds (5)	Citrus Fruits / Juices (2)
Stale flour, cereal and spices	Flower Bouquets	Coal and Coal Ashes (3)
Nutshells	Feathers and Animal Hair	Colored or Glossy paper
Food-soiled Paper Towels / Napkins	Hamster / Rabbit bedding	Pressure Treated Wood
Food-soiled Cardboard	Spoiled Juices (2)	Black Walnut Tree (7)

Composting - Mixture of **BROWNS (carbon-rich)** and **GREENS (nitrogen-rich)** with **water** and **air**, to produce healthy organic matter for your garden. The compost pile should always be moist, like a damp sponge; add **water** (or spoiled juices) to keep it moist. The compost pile needs **air** to encourage microorganisms to grow and feed on the pile, working to break the pile down to good organic matter; turn or stir the pile at least once per week.

Composting Ratio - A minimum of **4-to-1** (**browns-to-greens**), up to **30-to-1**, to create the healthiest, **least smelly**, compost pile, and the fastest breakdown to organic matter!

Composting Size - The smaller the pieces, the faster your compost pile will turn to organic matter. This means chopping, cutting, shredding and crushing to make the pieces smaller! **Smaller is better when composting.** The larger the pieces, the longer it will take to produce organic matter!

(1) Newspaper and Newsprint. Use the black-and-white printed pages only, UNLESS your newspaper is printed with soy-based inks. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and the local county weekly papers, are printed with soy-based inks. This means you can use the colored-ink printed pages as well!!

(2) Fruits and Vegetables. All fruit and vegetable scraps and juices, except citrus fruits! Citrus fruit is high in acids that can kill the microorganisms in your pile.

(3) Ashes. Ashes from your fireplace and ashes from your Big Green Egg / smoker. Do not use ashes from your charcoal grill, where you have used firestarters in or on the charcoal. Do not use coal or coal ashes as these contain high amounts of sulphur and iron that can damage your plants.

(4) Meat, Fish, Cheese and Dairy. These attract unwanted "critters" to your compost, can make your compost smell very bad, and will slow down the breakdown of your pile into good organic matter!

(5) Weeds and Seeds. In general, these can be added to your compost pile. But, always remember that your compost pile is making organic matter for your garden. If your good seeds benefit from this organic matter, then so do the bad seeds (invasive weeds such as kudzu, poison ivy, etc.).

(6) Herbicides and Pesticides. You do not want these in your compost pile. They will kill the microorganisms that are working on your pile, and they can survive to damage your garden. Do not add any plants, weeds or grass clippings that have been treated with non-organic herbicides or pesticides!

(7) Black Walnut Trees. Black Walnut trees produce a substance called juglone that helps them to survive in nature. The substance will stunt the growth tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, etc. in your garden. Juglone survives the composting process. Do not add any twigs, limbs, chips, ash, leaves or nuts from the black walnut tree to your compost!

(8) Diseased Plants. If your plant was not killed by a bug, beetle or worm, then you probably should not add it to your compost. Most "critters" will die in the "heat" of the compost pile. Most diseases will not. For example, the potato blight organism/disease can survive the compost pile.