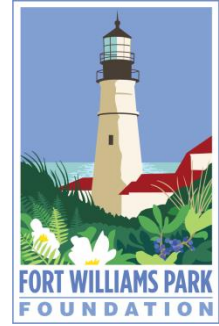


Make Compost Lasagna at Home!

Layer compostable materials “lasagna-style” for no-till gardening



Ready? Making a garden out of a patch of grass or weeds is easy. Layering recycled materials commonly found at home is a great way to create a rich area ready for planting, without disrupting the topsoil, nutrients, and worms that are already there. You should alternate layers of carbon-rich and nitrogen-rich materials. This is why we call it “lasagna.”

Set: Materials that contain carbon (brown): cardboard, newspaper, dead leaves (mulched or mowed leaves are best), pine needles, corn stalks, sawdust, wood chips, bark mulch, and straw (NOT hay, as it often has seeds).

Materials that contain nitrogen (green): used coffee grounds and tea bags, composted manure (can be store bought), fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, fruit peelings (avoid citrus), and seaweed.



Layer! Start with a brown layer (an overlapping layer of cardboard or 3-4 layers of newspaper). Then apply a 1-inch-thick layer of green materials. Alternate brown and green layers until the pile is at least 6-12” high. Water each layer as you assemble your lasagna to help weigh down the materials and keep them from blowing away. Finish with a brown layer that will provide a visual barrier and a physical barrier to pests.

Congratulations! You’ve made eco-lasagna. This process can be started at any time of year but fall is best, when many of the organic materials are readily available. While you rest from gardening during the dormant season, the layers will decompose (takes about 6 months). Your patience will be rewarded in mid-late spring with beautiful dark compost that is full of earthworms. Apply a top layer of soil and plant!