

Compost - A Pile of Fun

Learn to make your own “black gold” garden soil and minimize the amount of waste you send to the landfill. Compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow. Food scraps and yard waste together currently make up about 30 percent of what we throw away, and should be composted instead. Making compost keeps these materials out of landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Learning to compost is all about ratios.

You want to make sure you are keeping a 1:2 ratio of **GREEN** (Nitrogen-rich) to **BROWN** (Carbon-rich) materials.

You also want plenty of air flow through and around you pile to help it decompose faster, and make sure it stays damp (but not wet).

Don't forget, size matters.

Smaller pieces will break down faster, so make sure to rip up anything big like cardboard, whole fruits/veggies, etc.

What can I add?

Brown (Carbon) Materials

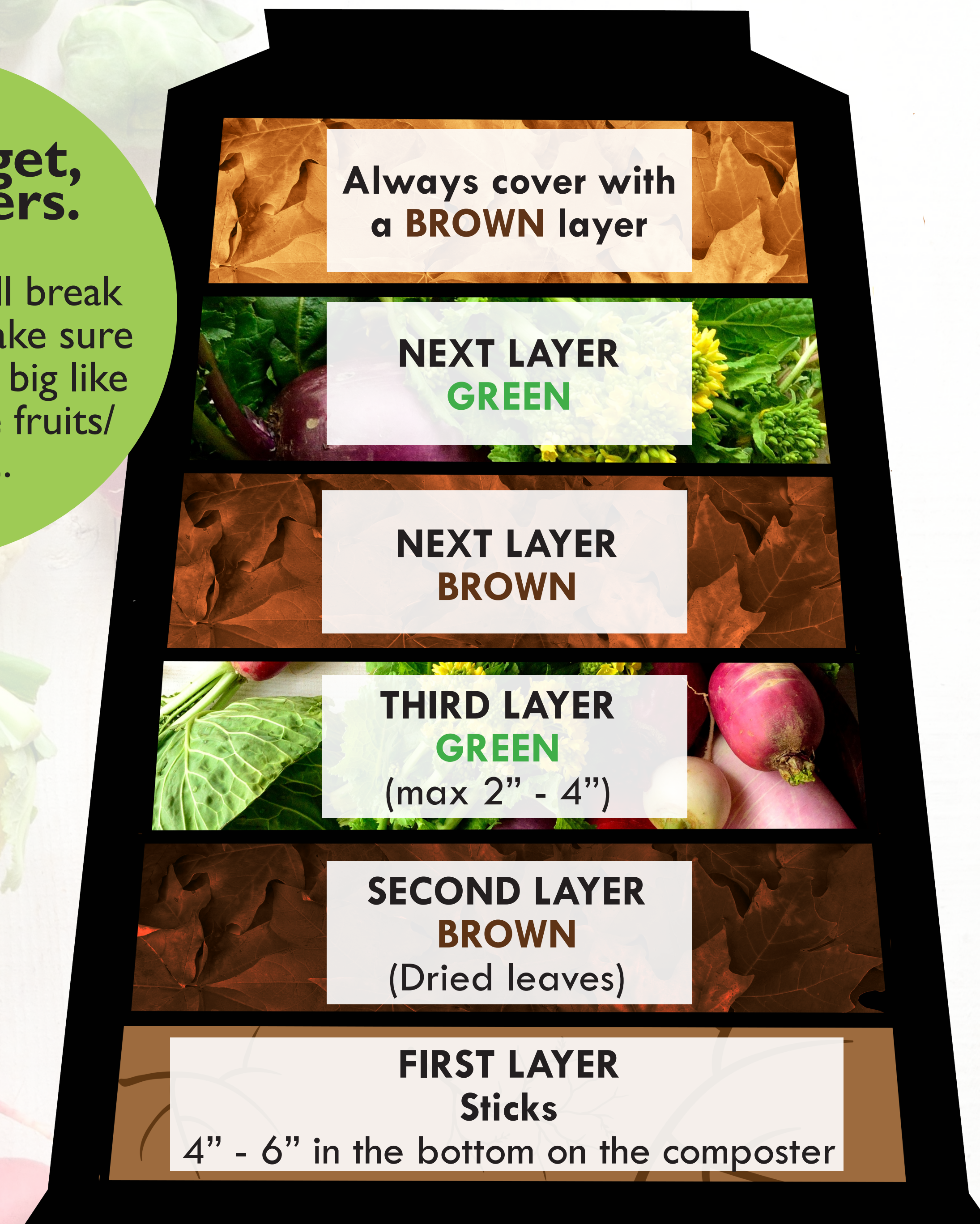
This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs.

Green (Nitrogen) Materials

This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds.

Never Add

Black walnut tree leaves or twigs; coal or charcoal ash; dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs; diseased or insect-ridden plants; fats, grease, lard, or oils; meat or fish bones and scraps; pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter; yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides



When adding layers, always be sure to add a layer of dry carbon material over any food scraps/ green layers to avoid attracting flies or other scavengers.

