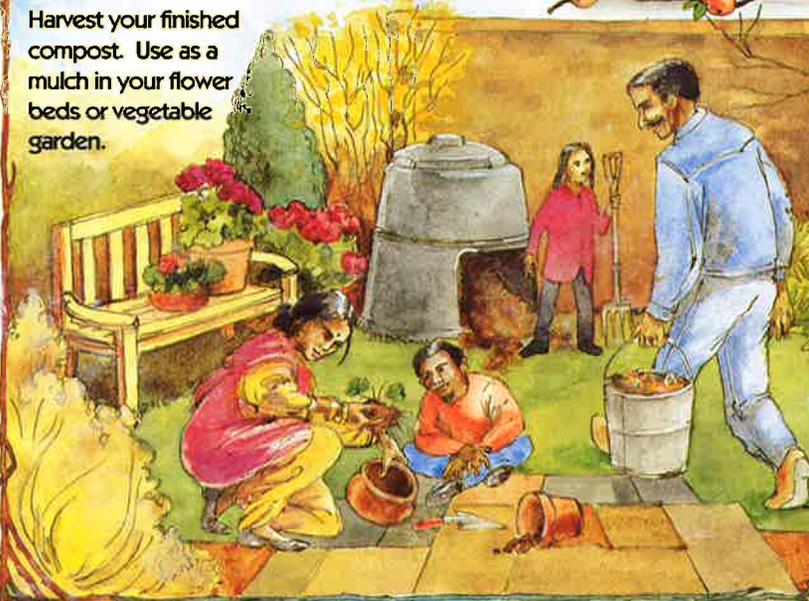


# Autumn

Harvest your finished compost. Use as a mulch in your flower beds or vegetable garden.



## The Four Seasons of Composting

# Winter



Keep your composter going during the cold weather by adding kitchen scraps regularly.

### Greens & Browns

(Nitrogen rich materials) (Carbon rich materials)

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Grass clippings
- Plant trimmings
- House plants
- Cut flowers
- Tea bags
- Egg shells

- Dry leaves
- Wood chips
- Sawdust
- Straw
- Twigs



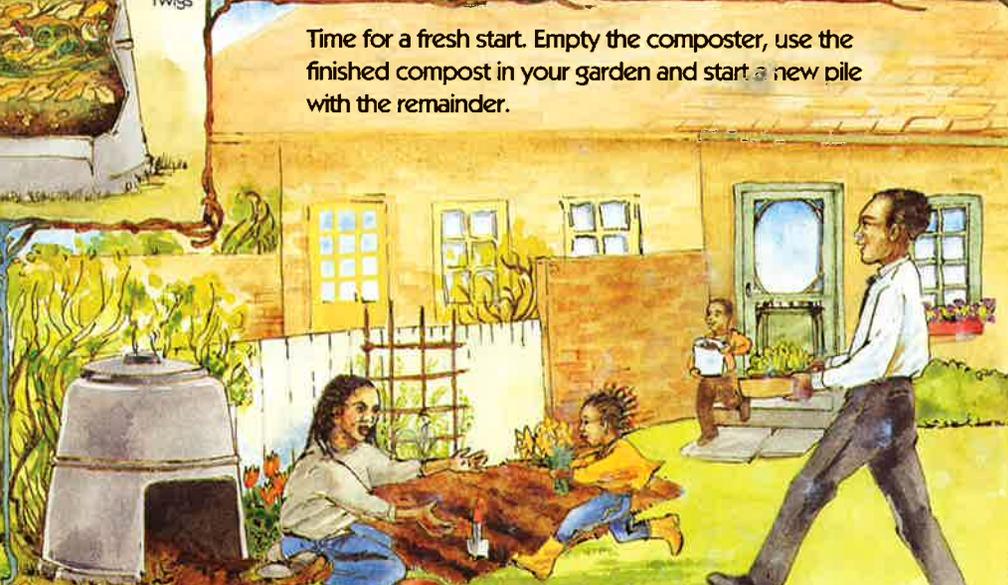
Time for a fresh start. Empty the composter, use the finished compost in your garden and start a new pile with the remainder.

# Summer

To keep your composter in top condition, just layer and stir. Cover each layer of kitchen scraps with leaves or peat moss and poke or stir the pile often.

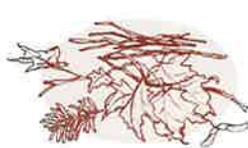


# Spring

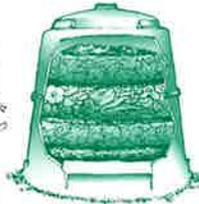


# The Four Seasons of Composting

## The Art of Decay



Carbon Rich Material



Nitrogen Rich Material

### Composting Checklist

#### Spring

- empty composter
- spread finished compost on lawn or garden
- reserve some leaves from yard clean-up to add to the composter over the summer

#### Summer

- cover kitchen waste with leaves, peat moss or soil
- poke or stir the compost regularly
- leave grass clippings on the lawn

#### Autumn

- harvest the finished compost
- empty the composter
- set some leaves aside to add over the winter
- start a separate compost pile for leaf and yard waste

#### Winter

- keep using the composter regularly
- add leaves after each addition of kitchen scraps

### Troubleshooting / Problem Solver

- Symptom:** compost not breaking down  
**Cause:** pile too small, pile too dry and/or material too large  
**Solution:** add more material, add water and/or chop kitchen and yard waste smaller
- Symptom:** fruit flies in the compost  
**Cause:** leaving kitchen scraps uncovered  
**Solution:** cover with leaves, peat moss or soil
- Symptom:** bad odour  
**Cause:** pile too wet or compacted  
**Solution:** add more dry materials (e.g. wood chips or twigs) and poke or stir the compost
- Symptom:** ammonia like odour  
**Cause:** too much nitrogen rich materials  
**Solution:** add leaves, straw or other carbon rich materials
- Symptom:** pale green mould in the pile  
**Cause:** lack of oxygen  
**Solution:** stir, poke or turn the pile
- Symptom:** an infestation of ants in the pile  
**Cause:** pile too dry  
**Solution:** add water

## Balancing Act

A composter in top condition will be sweet smelling, actively working, and problem free.

All that's needed to keep your composter humming along is the right balance of four ingredients:

- Nitrogen - from kitchen scraps and grass clippings
- Carbon - from leaves and peat moss
- Air - poke or stir the pile regularly
- Water - keep the pile as moist as a damp sponge

