

## TTCG'S COMMUNITY COMPOST PROJECT

Since February 2019, the Temple Terrace Community garden has been building their composting capacity in order to provide a self-sustaining and sustainable method to building healthy soil. To do this, we've been researching into an oldie-but-goodie composting practice called the **Berkeley Method**.

What is great about this method is that it has a quick turn around if the conditions are done correctly.

**Those conditions include:**

**1) 30:1 Carbon** (oak leaves & dried brown plant matter) **to Nitrogen** ( raw fruits/veggies, egg shells, coffee grounds & fresh garden scraps) **ratio.**

**2) Moisture - not soaking but fairly wet.**

**3) Consistent turning every 3 to 4 days.**

With the right moisture levels, carbon-to-nitrogen contact, and turns to allow oxygen into the mix, one bin will become soil in about a month.

### STARTING A PILE

The ideal mass for one compost bin is 36 x 36 x 36 (about a 3 ft cube) which would be a little smaller than the size of the bin space. To get to this mass, we may be adding to a bin anywhere between a few days to a week and a half.

While we are building the compost mass in a bin we should be layering food and garden scraps with oak leaves. Kind of like a lasagna. **Oak leaves should always be the top layer.** This prevents a smell and attracting flies, rodents or any other unwanted pest from dining in our compost. If you happen to see that someone has added food scraps to a bin but did not cover it with oak leaves, please take a moment and cover the food scraps with oak leaves.

**Once we are able to make a mass of this size we will then stop adding new green materials. From there we will begin the turning process!**

Please be sure to rinse food scrap container afterwards





## TAKING TURNS TURNING THE COMPOST

Inside of TTCG -Riverhills's shed is a board where we will keep folks informed about compost updates. (Please see the reference page for a photo of the board.)

It was recommended to turn the compost between two bins instead of keeping it in the same bin. The notes on the board will say something like "turn 1A w/ 1B" with the date of the last turn. Every 3 to 4 day someone will then turn the pile into the other indicated bin. Work as a team whenever possible to make the process a little easier! A pitch fork is the easiest way to move everything with a rake to clean up the area afterwards. Please be sure to check for a thermometer before you start turning. If there is one in the bin it will be on top of the pile about in the middle.

**Once you've rotated the pile please update the date on the board with a dry erase marker.**

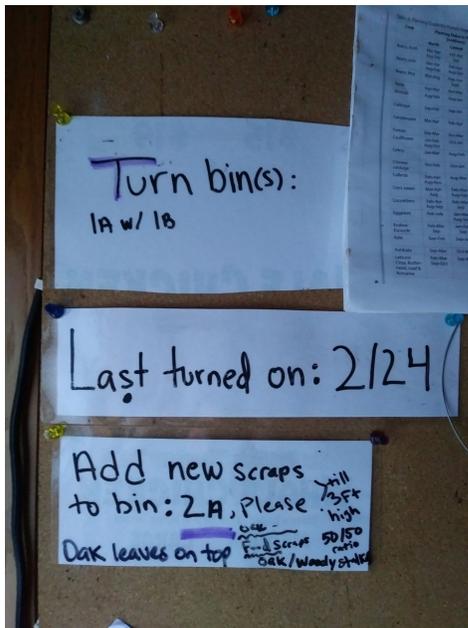
## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMPOSTING

Community is what is making this project possible. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far with this project- collecting materials, providing food scraps and oak leaves, and helping with the overall care and more! It is with your generous donations and the time you've provided that has made this project to what it is today.

**If you are interested in helping and would like more information please contact us at [TempleTerraceCommunityGarden@hotmail.com](mailto:TempleTerraceCommunityGarden@hotmail.com)**

## REFERENCE

- Raabe, Robert D. *The Rapid Composting Method*. Vegetable Research and Information Center. University of California.  
[https://vric.ucdavis.edu/pdf/compost\\_rapidcompost.pdf](https://vric.ucdavis.edu/pdf/compost_rapidcompost.pdf)  
This is a great short article to learn more about this hot composting method. I would highly encourage anyone who is interested in learning how all this works to read this article to learn the basics.



Riverhill's Compost information board.



Please come by to pick up a clean container for your raw fruit and veggie scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, tea bags/leaves. When you are ready to drop off, you may either switch out your container or pour scraps into another container