Turn lawn and yard trimmings and food scraps into rich compost your plants will love.

**Making compost takes some care; Add greens, browns, water and air.**

**Make your pile come alive; Encourage microbes to help it thrive!**
A healthy pile includes microorganisms, like bacteria and fungi. Create conditions in your pile so microorganisms thrive.

**You need a lot, To get it hot.**
Pile greens and browns at least three feet high, wide and long to heat up and keep heat in your pile. Heat kills weed seeds and speeds composting.

**If your pile gets too dry, Add water; don’t let it die!**
Add water during dry spells to keep your pile damp. Microorganisms need water to survive.

**Let fresh air flow through your pile; For an earthy smell all the while.**
Make sure your pile lets in lots of air for its microorganisms. Turn your pile with a garden fork and add plenty of browns for air spaces.

**Take it slow, nice and steady; Give compost time to get ready.**
After six months to a year, when your compost is ready, spread it on your lawn, flower beds and landscaping to give them a boost.

**Keep a store of browns near; Add all throughout the year.**
Browns are needed in every season to add carbon and aerate your pile. Leaves decompose faster when you mow over or shred them first.

**ADD BROWNS** (source of carbon)
leaves, twigs, wood chips, straw, old weeds and grass clippings

**ADD GREENS** (source of nitrogen)
fruit and vegetable scraps, bread, toast, rice, pasta, coffee grounds, tea bags, fresh weeds and grass clippings

**no meat, dairy or fats and oils**

See DEC's website and download the booklet, "EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOME COMPOSTING," for more information.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation