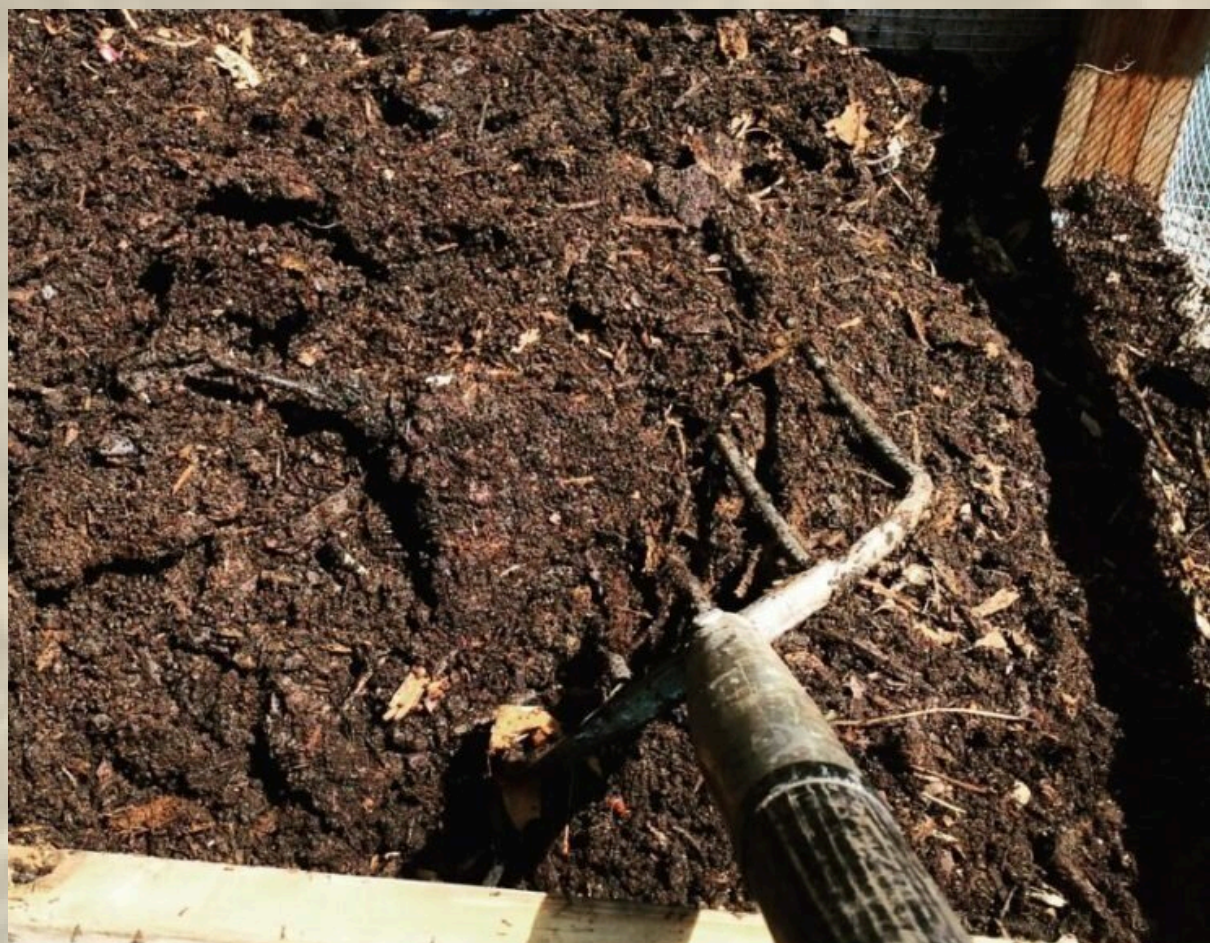




COMPOSTING 101

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

- Composting is a process by which organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, decomposes into soil.
- It's a great way to recycle scraps from your yard and kitchen while also enriching the soil in your garden, improving water retention, and protecting against erosion.



WHY COMPOST?

- Recycle kitchen scraps instead of tossing them, which reduces food waste and helps minimize your environmental impact.
- Compost helps soil retain more moisture and nutrients, prevents erosion by breaking up compacted soil, and lowers the need for synthetic fertilizers.

DO NOT COMPOST!

- Pet waste, bones or scraps from meat, fish, poultry, and dairy products.



WHAT CAN YOU COMPOST?



- Food scraps, lawn trimmings, fruit and vegetable peels, coffee grounds, eggshells, paper, cardboard, grass clippings, leaves, flowers, and wood chips.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO MAKE YOUR OWN COMPOST

1. **Choose a Bin:** Select or build a compost bin that retains moisture and heat, and allows ground contact.
2. **Pick a Spot:** Find a dry, shaded spot near water for your compost setup.
3. **Start Layering:** Begin with brown materials for airflow, followed by green scraps.
4. **Moisten Materials:** Keep your compost as damp as a wrung-out sponge.
5. **Aerate Regularly:** Turn your compost pile every few weeks to speed up decomposition.
6. **Use Compost:** After 2-5 months, your compost should be ready for garden or potting use.