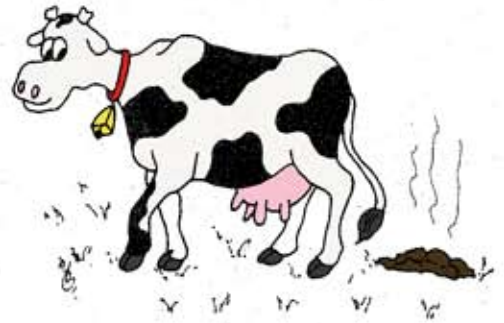


Brewster Facts

1. Composting is part of a natural cycle. Organic materials such as plants, vegetables and trees use nutrients and minerals found in the soil to grow. When the plant dies, it rots. This returns the nutrients and minerals to the soil.
2. When waste is placed in a landfill the cycle just mentioned is interrupted. Compost allows a person to dispose of their waste without affecting the cycle.



3. Basically, all a compost pile does is let organic waste rot in a controlled way. Composting allows food and other waste to rot or decompose without odours, health risks or pest problems. The two types of composting are aerobic and anaerobic, Aerobic uses oxygen while anaerobic does not.
4. A good compost pile is made from two alternating layers; green layers and brown layers. A green layer is high in nitrogen. The bacteria and insects in a compost pile use nitrogen to reproduce. Vegetables and wilted plants would be found in a green layer. A brown layer of straw, twigs, or paper is high in carbon. Carbon gives bacteria and insects energy to help a compost pile decompose.



5. Finished compost looks like top soil. Compost is a good conditioner for lawns, gardens, and house plants.
6. Most composting is done by individuals in their backyard. There are other methods. Some areas use central composting. Truck loads of organic waste are turned, under controlled conditions, into soil. People in apartments or classrooms do not have room to compost. Worm composters allow these people to decompose their waste.

