



COMPOSTING IN A BUCKET!

Composting in a bucket is a simple and fun way to turn fruit and vegetable scraps into healthy compost dirt for your garden.

It is a great option if you do not have space for a large compost heap or bin, and it helps children see how food scraps can be recycled back into nature.

What you will need...



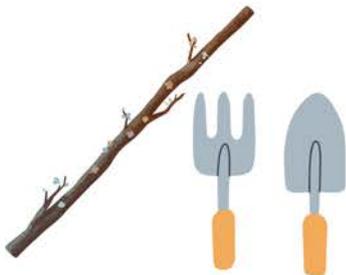
A bucket



Fruit, vegie & plant scraps



Dried grass



A stick or small garden tool for mixing



Water, if needed



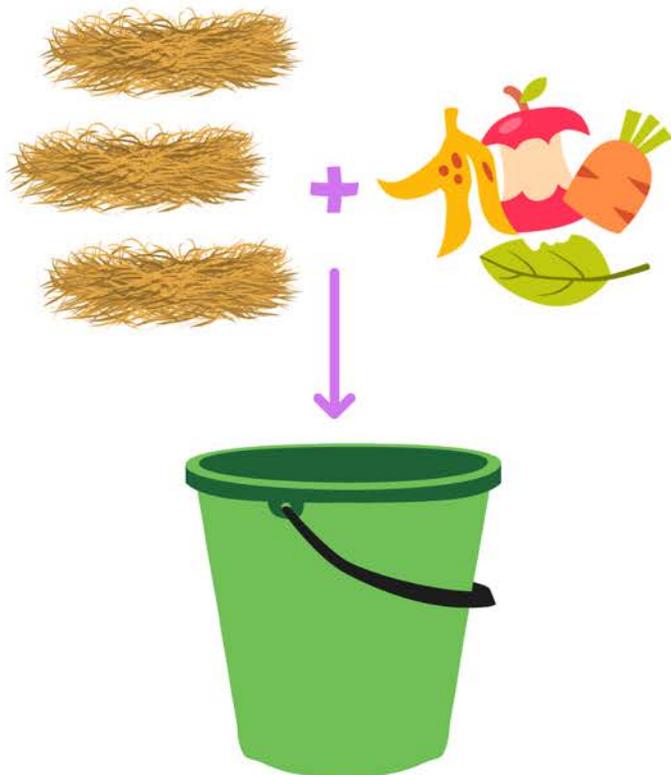
Cardboard or wet paper for a lid



MAKING COMPOST IN A BUCKET:

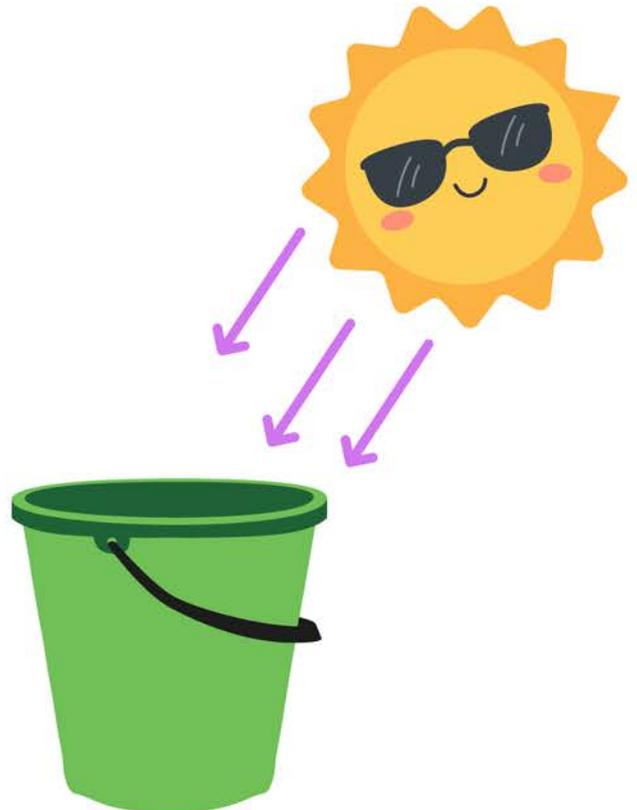
1. Add the ingredients

Place 3 parts dry grass and 1 part fruit and vegetable scraps into the bucket.



2. Position the bucket

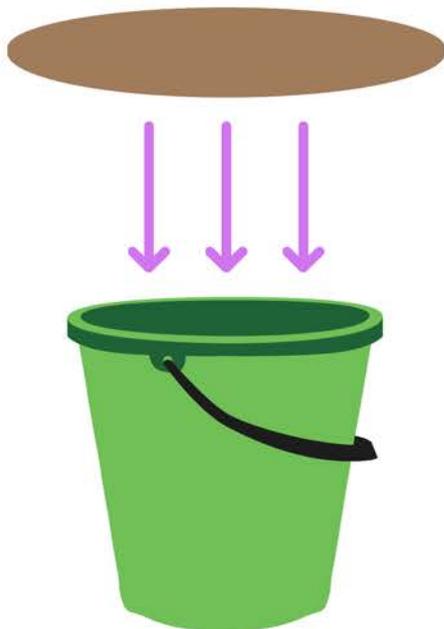
Place the bucket in a sunny position to help the compost break down faster.





3. Make a lid

Cover the top with some wet paper or a piece of cardboard. As the wet paper dries, it acts like a lid while still allowing some airflow.



4. Mix it up

Mix the ingredients every day or at least once a week. You can stir it with a stick, or tip the bucket out, mix it, and then place it back into the bucket. Mixing helps add air, and air is very important for composting.





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5. Check the moisture

After a week or two, check how the compost feels. It should be about the same consistency as a wrung-out sponge. If it is too dry, add a little water, or if it is too wet, add more dry grass.



6. Let nature do its work

You may notice bugs appearing in the bucket. Don't worry, they are nature's helpers and they help break the scraps down into healthy compost dirt.





YOUR COMPOST IS READY!

In approximately 6 weeks, the ingredients should turn into dark, healthy compost dirt that you can use in your garden.





Handy tips for success:

Chop scraps into small pieces to help them break down faster



Check moisture often so it stays damp, not soggy



Keep the bucket in a warm, sunny spot



Mix regularly to let air in



Store fruit and veggie scraps in a container in the fridge until you are ready to add them to the bucket



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Helpful insects you might see (and why they're good!)



Ants

Eat fungi, seeds, old food, and other insects
Can increase phosphorus and potassium by bringing minerals into the compost



Sow Bugs / Slaters

Flat oval bugs with segmented bodies
Eat rotting plants and old wood-based materials



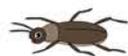
Flies (including Black Soldier Fly)

Help spread decomposer bacteria around the pile
If flies are too many: cover scraps with more dry carbon (leaves, grass clippings, sawdust)
Fly larvae can look like maggots but if meat/bread have not been added, don't panic!



Beetles, Grubs & Snails

Eat rotting veg, slugs/snails, and other insects
Grubs are a normal stage before beetles become adults



Springtails

Tiny jumpy insects (often white/blue/black)
Eat mould, fungi, and decomposing plants



Mites

Some eat plant matter, others eat small insects/larvae
Work alongside bacteria to break things down



MAKING COMPOST DIRT!

Song tune to 'Farmer in the Dell'

We're Making Compost Dirt,
We're Making Compost Dirt,
Grab a bucket and a spoon,
We're Making Compost Dirt.

Time to mow the lawn, brm brm
Time to mow the lawn, brm brm,
Mow it here and mow it there,
It's time to mow the lawn.

Scoop up all the grass,
Scoop up all the grass,
Scoop it here and scoop it there,
Scoop up all the grass.

A Watermelon skin,
An Apple core too,
Save your scraps and put them in,
We're making Compost stew.

Mix it all around,
Mix it all around,
Mix it fast and mix it slow,
Mix it all around.

A long time has passed,
It's turned to dirt at last,
Composting in our gar- ar - den
Composting is a Blaaaaaast!



Scan &
Sing Along!





Don't send us to landfill,



we have work to do!

Composting is a wonderful way to help look after our planet.

When fruit and vegetable scraps are thrown into the rubbish and sent to landfill, they can create methane gasses, which are harmful to the environment. But when we compost instead, we return those natural materials back to the earth where they can break down properly and become rich, healthy soil.

Composting is a simple way to reduce waste, help gardens grow, and give back to nature - just like nature intended.



**Any questions?
Email Lea - The Bug Lady!
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