

# Easy Home Composting!

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.**

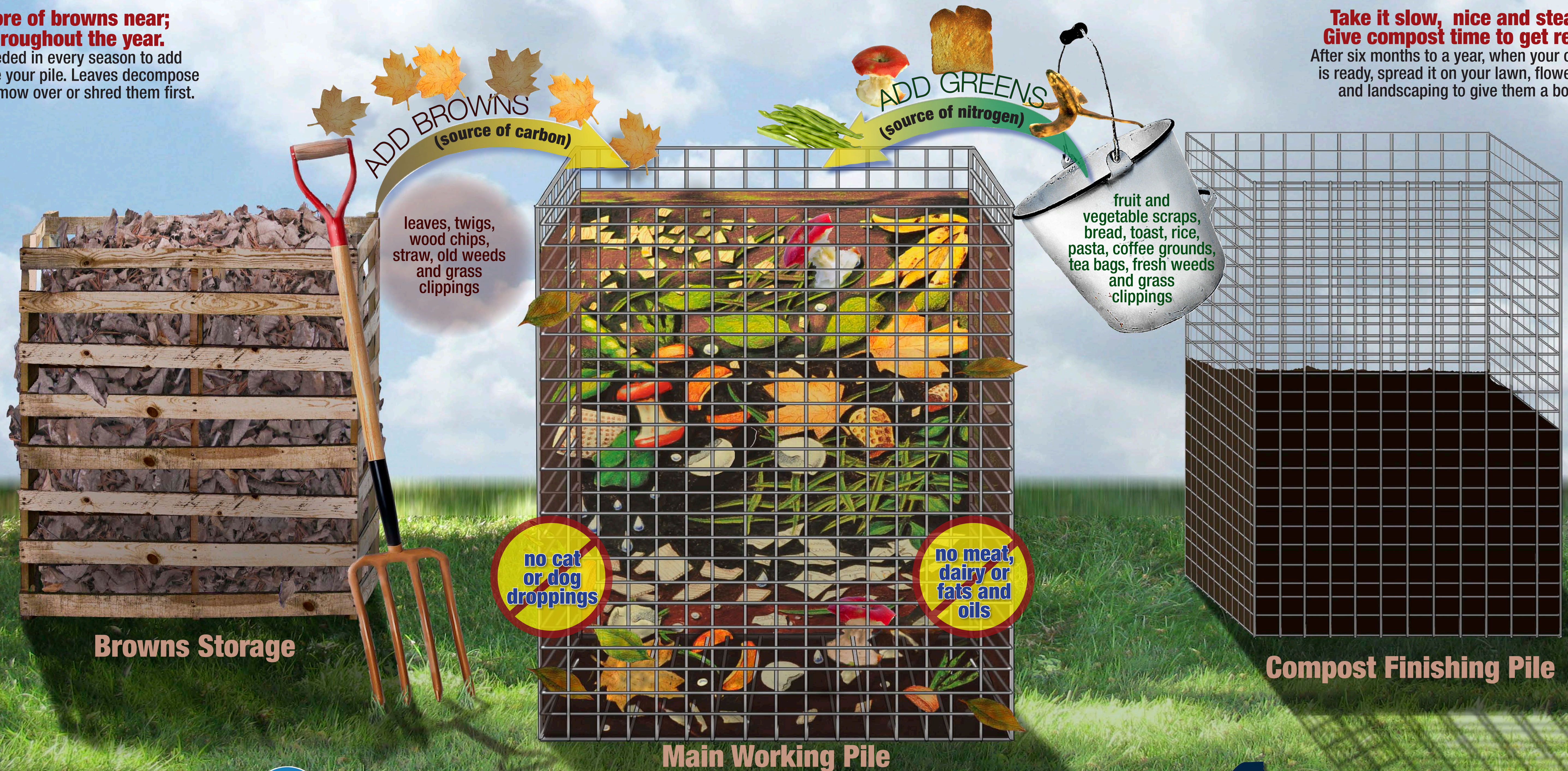
Make sure your pile lets in lots of air for its microorganisms. Turn your pile with a garden fork and add plenty of browns for air spaces.

**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.

**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.



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**



Photographic illustration composite by Frank Heret