The Gainesville Zero Waste News

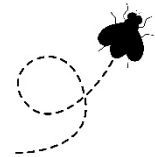## Troubleshooting Your Backyard Compost Pile: Get Back on Track to Rich Compost!

Congratulations on your Zero Waste journey and your commitment to composting! However, if your compost pile seems to be giving you some trouble, don't worry. With a few simple fixes, you'll be well on your way to creating valuable compost, also known as "#blackgold." Here are some tips to help you troubleshoot common issues:

Why is my pile not heating up?
- REASON: You likely added too many browns (carbon-rich materials) compared to greens (nitrogen-rich materials).
- SOLUTION: Add more greens, such as kitchen scraps or fresh grass clippings. This will help balance your pile's carbon and nitrogen content, allowing it to heat up and decompose more effectively.

Why does my pile stink and attract too many flies?
- REASON: You may have added excessive greens without enough browns to create a proper balance.
- SOLUTION: Increase the amount of browns, such as dried leaves, straw, or shredded newspaper. This helps to absorb excess moisture and odors, creating a healthier environment for decomposition and reducing fly attraction.

Why is my pile still too wet?
- REASON: The pile is likely getting too much water (low-lying area, heavy rains, watering too frequently, etc.).
- SOLUTION: Add more browns to absorb the excess moisture. Additionally, consider reducing the water input by adjusting your watering frequency or covering the pile during rainy periods. **Striving for a moist but not soggy pile is key.**

Remember, patience is essential when composting. Observe your pile, make adjustments based on its condition, and don't hesitate to seek advice from fellow composters in your community. Composting is a rewarding process that helps reduce your carbon footprint, diverts waste from landfills, and promotes a sustainable lifestyle. Enjoy the journey, as there are no wrong ways to do it!

For more helpful tips and information, you can visit gainesvillefl.gov/recycle. ***Happy composting!***

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