

## *Garden Compost*

When the HCG raised beds were established in 2013, the plots were filled with topsoil and compost donated by the Derry Township Recycling Center.

The health of your soil will determine in large part the success and health of your plants. Garden compost is one of the best ways to keep your soil healthy, fertile and productive.

Compost is created by worms and microbes that feast on the garden waste and scraps recycling them into organic fertilizer and soil structure building blocks.

Basically, anything that was alive will compost, but some things are better than others. Please refer to the following for guidance of what to place in our community compost pile. The materials placed in the composting area will be removed by Derry Township and taken to the Derry Township Recycling Center to complete the composting process.

**Please do not bring any materials from outside of the HCG to the composting area. The area is to be used solely for organic, plant waste generated in the plots and common areas of the HCG.**

### Compostable Green Items

Vegetable and fruit scraps  
Cut flowers  
Fresh grass clippings  
Fresh leaves  
Freshly pulled weeds  
Remains of vegetable plants

### Compostable Brown Items

Dry leaves  
Dry weeds  
Chopped cornstalks  
Old bedding plants  
Tough plant and vegetable stems  
Old straw used as mulch

### Do Not Compost

Diseased or insect-infested plants (must remove from site per Community Garden Agreement)  
Meat and fish scraps  
Dog feces  
Disposable diapers  
Plastic, polystyrene, glass, metal