

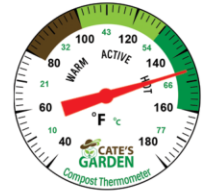
Cate's Garden

PREMIUM COMPOST THERMOMETER

Congratulations on the purchase of your Cate's Garden compost thermometer! Knowing the temperature of your compost pile will allow you to know when to water, when to add more materials, when it needs turning, and when the compost is ready to use in your garden.

Instructions:

Simply place the thermometer into your compost pile. The end of the probe should be around the center of your pile. Wait one minute for the dial to measure the temperature.



HOT
130 – 160°F (54 – 70°C)

Your material is breaking down at a rapid pace as rich, populous micro-organisms are busily churning your scraps into compost. If you achieve these temperatures, your pile is at maximum efficiency! Only large compost piles (over four feet in width and height) will likely reach this level of heat. Compost will be ready in a few short weeks.

If your pile climbs beyond this temperature range, though, it will become too hot for your beneficial critters. Water down your compost and make it smaller by removing some material.

Once all your scraps and yard waste is broken down into ready to use compost, the temperature will gradually fall back to the warm range. You're done!

Temperature Guide:

WARM
80 – 100°F (26 – 38°C)



At this stage, beneficial bacteria, micro-organisms, worms and insects are slowly breaking down your kitchen scraps and yard waste. Keep adding material and some water, and turn the pile every few days. If your compost is black and looks and smells earthy, it is ready to add to your garden.

ACTIVE
100 – 130°F (38 – 54°C)



This is the temperature range where most composting activities occur. Insects will flee your pile from the heat, leaving micro-organisms, beneficial bacteria and fungi to do all the work. It is their efficient reproduction and feeding that heats the compost, quickly turning material into rich, usable compost.

If the temperature drops before you see earthy soil, turn and shift your pile to let more oxygen and materials into the center for the micro-organisms to continue living and breathing. Add water periodically to keep the pile slightly moist.

What To Put In Your Composter?

For optimal composting, your pile needs to consist of a mixture of "green" and "brown" items. A ratio of two parts brown material to one part green material is best, but don't worry too much about this. It will compost either way, as long as they are mixed together.

| Greens | Browns |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">grass and leaveskitchen scrapscoffee groundshair and fur | <ul style="list-style-type: none">old leaves and small twigsshredded newsprintsawdust and wood ash |
| Avoid <ul style="list-style-type: none">meats and dairyanimal wasteplastic, stickers, glass, metaloil, fat and bonesdiseased plants and weed seeds | |

Happy composting! Please visit us at Catesgarden.com for more composting ideas and reordering information.