

TCNJ CAMPUS GARDEN

COMPOST BIN

In addition to growing and distributing food, the garden also serves as a living classroom that fosters an understanding of urban agriculture and sustainability in TCNJ's students throughout their first-year experiences and beyond.

Like all urban agriculture projects, the TCNJ Campus Garden requires an input of compost every year in order to rejuvenate the soil to maintain and increase its yield from the previous season. Presently, the Garden receives compost from external sources despite possessing the means to produce its own supply. The necessary amount of both “greens” and “browns” are currently being produced as a function of the everyday maintenance of the Garden, yet are not being put to relevant use. This compost serves as a way of becoming more self-sufficient and a learning tool.

We found several reasons to use a closed composting system. Not only does it have a cleaner and more aesthetic look, it is also a much more efficient way to compost here at the Garden based on our needs and space. It will attract less pests and make it easier for us to control the amount of air it receives. A closed system will help the compost reach the desirable temperature of 160 degrees fahrenheit in order for the greens and browns to decompose.

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COMPOST BIN: HOW TO USE

PUT IN BIN:

GREENS:

- Greens are fruits and vegetables grown in garden
- These serve as a source of nitrogen for the compost.

BROWNS:

- Browns are straw, hay, leaves, vines, and wood produced in the garden.
- These serve as a source of carbon for the compost.

NOT ALLOWED IN BIN:

- Diseased Plants
- Lawn Clippings
- Meat
- Dairy Products
- Donated Compostable Materials
- Anything Not From Our Garden

STEPS FOR COMPOSTING:

- Turn compost regularly with fork or other tool(s)
- If compost is too wet, Bonner Scholars will turn it and add nitrogen-rich garden materials (greens).
- If compost is too dry, Bonner Scholars will sprinkle water to the pile and turn it to ensure that compost is kept moist.
- If compost begins to smell bad, leaves and straw will be added to the compost.