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.

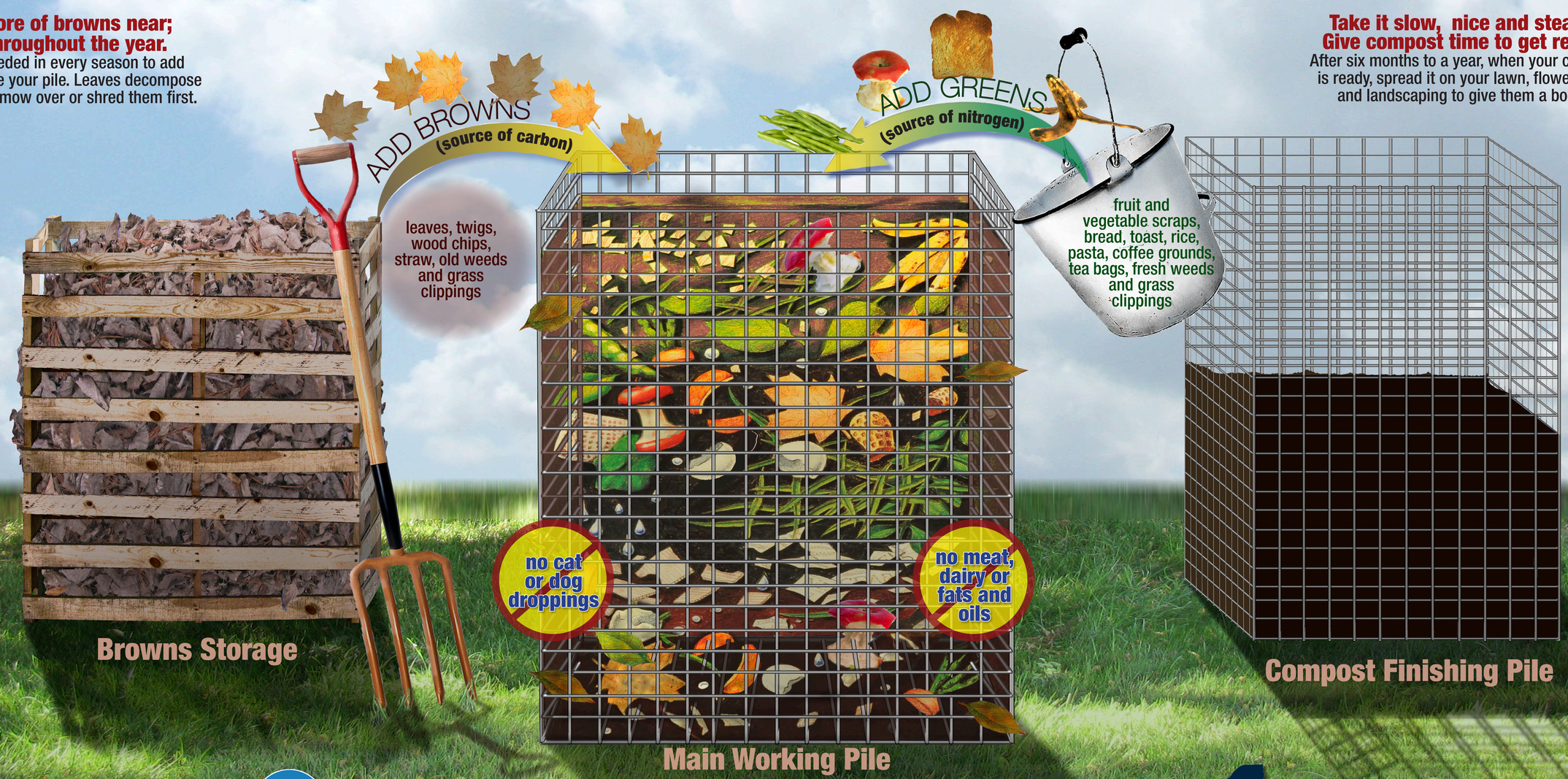
You need a lot, To get it hot.
Pile greens and browns at least three feet high, wide and long to heat up and keep heat in your pile. Heat kills weed seeds and speeds composting.

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

The New NY WORKS for the Environment

Photographic illustration composite by Frank Herec