## Recipe for Compost Heaps (Bins)

- 1. Place a mat of chopped brush or course material on the soil in the bottom of the heap (3-4 Inches)
- 2. Add 6 8 inches of leaves, grass, etc. on the mat of base material
- 3. (Optional) Sprinkle a little soil on the pile of composting material. This adds microorganisms to the mixture
- 4. (Optional) Add a handful of commercial fertilizer to the pile to add some NITROGEN, which aids microbial growth. Manure or a little ammonia can also work. Water needs to be used with these aids to dilute and to distribute the nitrogen through the decomposing materials
- Continue to add materials to the heap in 6-8 inches layers until full. Mixing "(green) – high Nitrogen and (brown) – high Carbon" layers makes for good composting.
- 6. The heap needs to be kept moist (but not soaked). One way to make rainwater more effective is to make a depression in the center of the top of the pile (forms a "pool" to make water drain through center of heap). \*If nature fails to add water to the pile, make sure you aid composting by adding some water.
- 7. To speed composting, turn materials in the pile (or switch to a second bin) every 4
  6 weeks. This allows more aerobic (oxygen using) microbes to work on the material. This also reduce odor if any occurs. (It will always smell musty).
- 8. When material turns dark brown and gets crumbly it is ready to use. Sifting through a course screen will help separate any large particles.
- 9. Mix in with soil or use as a mulch or ground cover.

## (ALL OF THIS CAN TAKE FROM 3 MONTHS TO A YEAR DEPENDING UPON CONDITIONS THE COMPOSTING IS TAKING PLACE)