

A photograph of a garden bed with yellow flowers and a person in a blue shirt working in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Finding the **TREASURE** in Your Yard

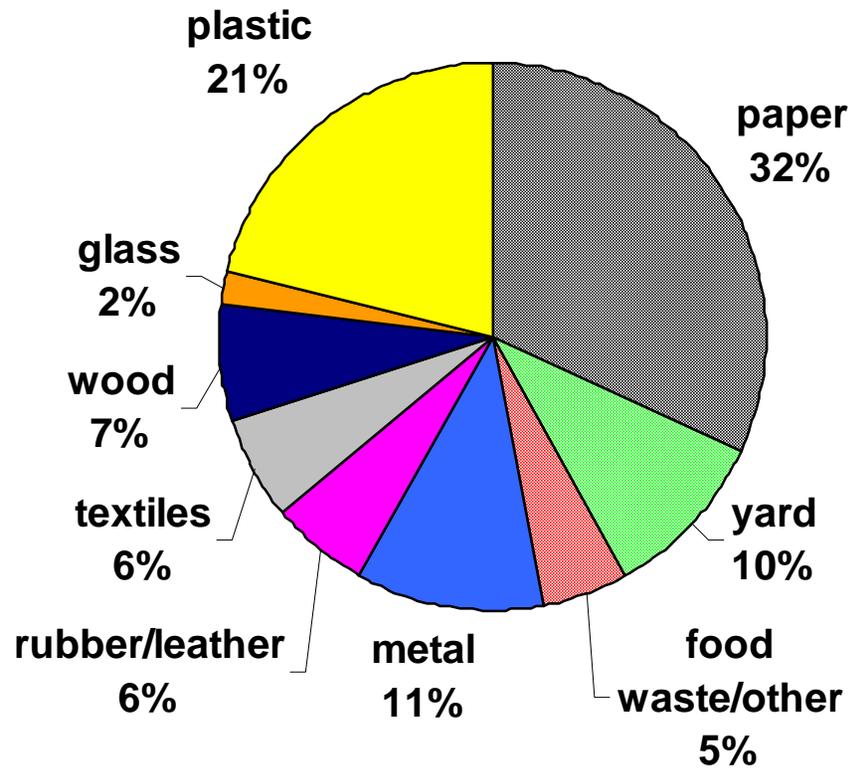
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# Our Waste Stream

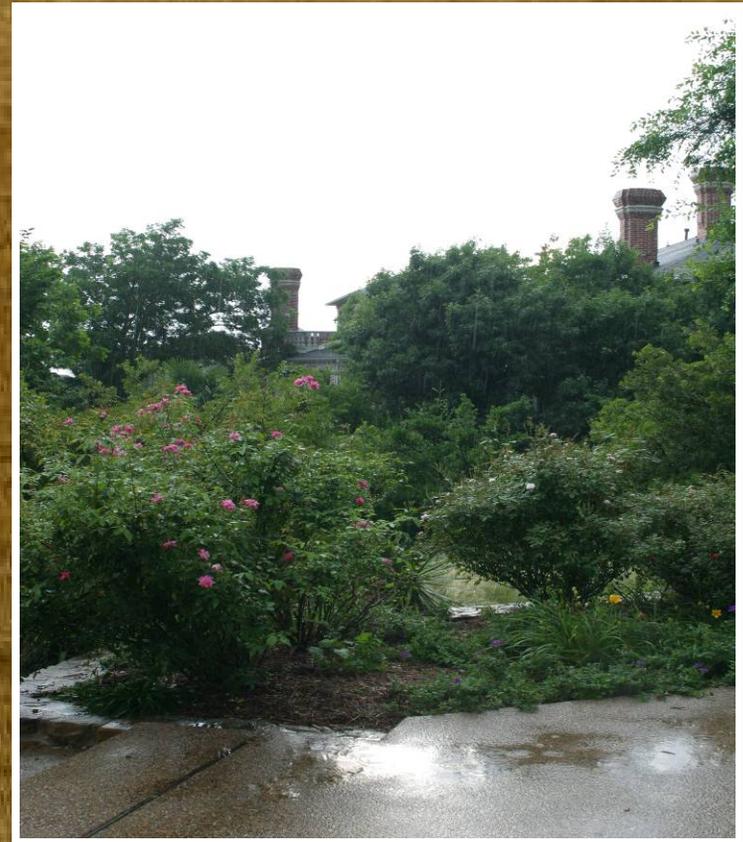


# Benefits of Composting

- Save landfill space
  - >5 million tons of yard waste end up in Texas landfills each year
- Reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic fertilizers
- Save water!
  - Soil retains moisture longer

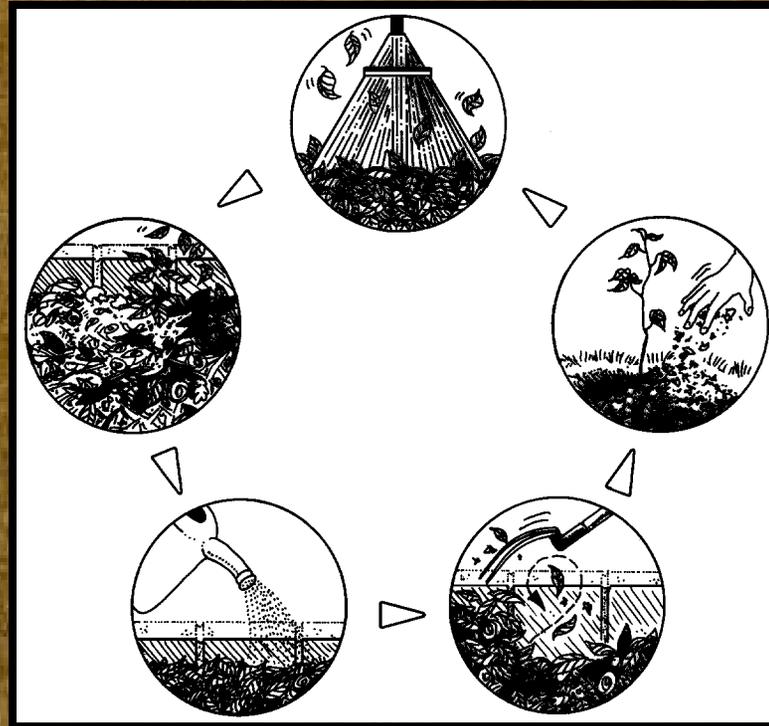
# How do you benefit?

- Healthier plants
- Increased disease resistance
- Improved soil structure
- Improved moisture retention
- Buffers pH



# How to Compost

- The 5 Laws of Composting or Rules of Rot
  - Materials
  - Mass
  - Moisture
  - Air
  - Time



# Rules of Rot

- Moisture
  - 50% consistency of damp sponge
  - Necessary for microbe life
  - Too much will create an odor
- Mass
  - 1 cubic yard minimum or 3' x 3' x 3' size bin
- Material
  - Brown and green to make it work!

# Rules of Rot

- Air
  - Aerobic digestion – keep air flow
  - Anaerobic digestion – odor
- Time
  - Nature takes time – think forest
  - How long will depend on you – Type A or B?

# Are you a Type A or B?

- Type A – Hot pile
  - Layer with brown, green, brown
  - Water between layers
  - Turn frequently, keep temp  $> 131^{\circ}\text{F}$  for 15 days
- Type B – Cold pile
  - Keep adding materials to pile
  - Don't turn
  - Let nature do the work

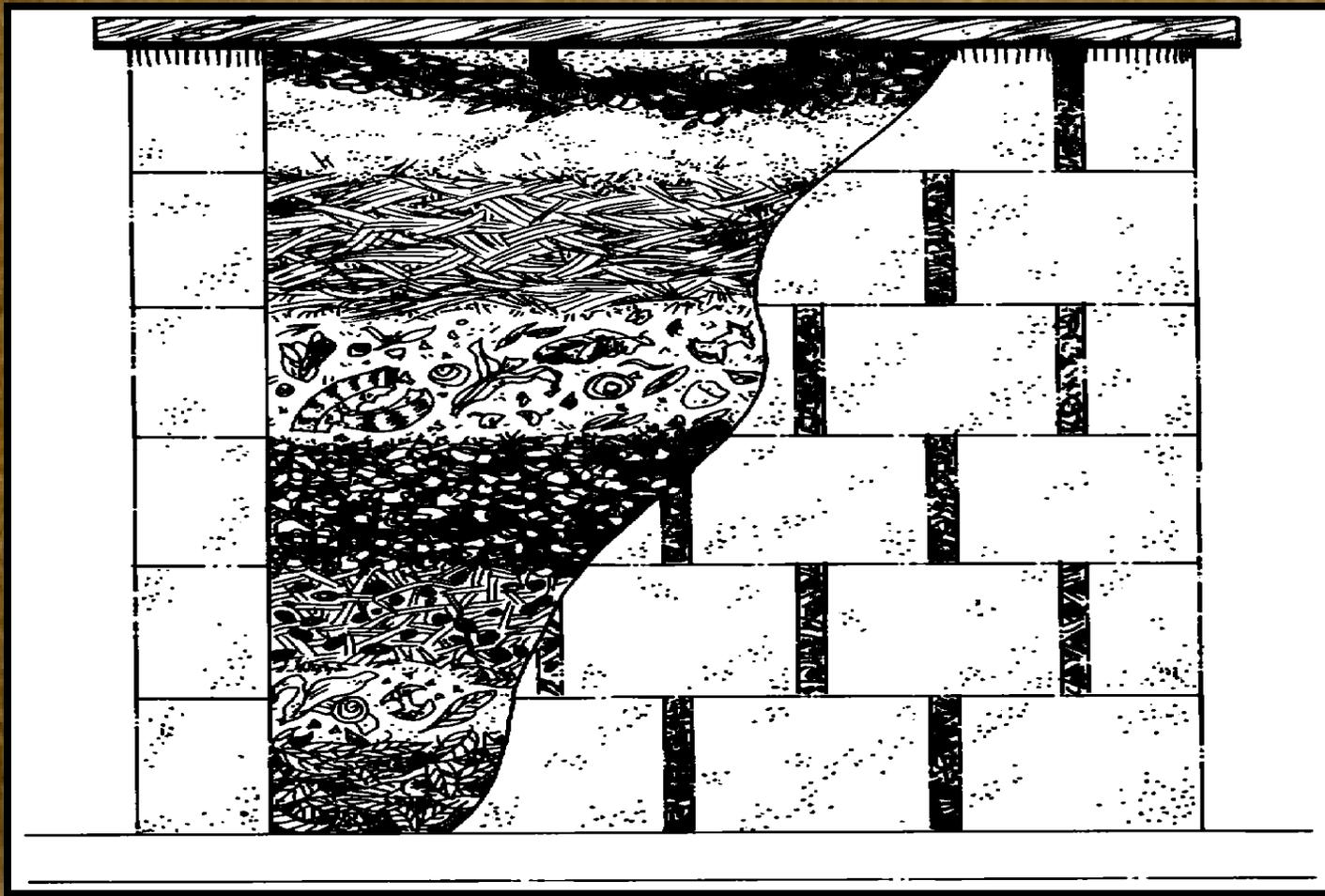
# Carbon : Nitrogen

- Carbon
  - Burns easy when dry
  - Leaves 40:1
  - Cornstalks 60:1
  - Straw 80:1
  - Sawdust 500:1
- Nitrogen
  - Odor when wet
  - Vegetable waste 12:1
  - Alfalfa hay 13:1
  - Grass 20:1
  - Rotted manure 20:1

# Greens and Browns

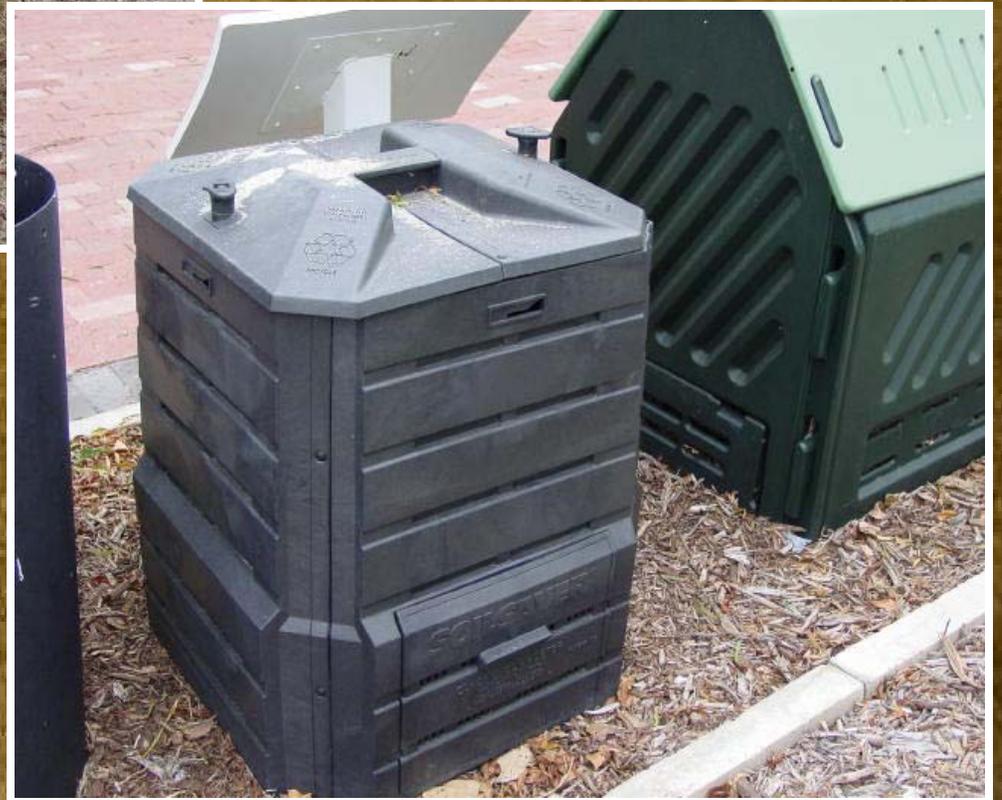


**If you build it, they will come**



# Build a Bin







# Avoid These Materials

- Pet wastes
- No animal products or bones
- Fats or oils
- Save food scraps for the worms

# Consider This

- Particle Size Reduction
  - Shred, chip, chop, grind
- Turning Frequency
  - Ease of access
- Pile Placement
  - Out of neighbor's eye-sight

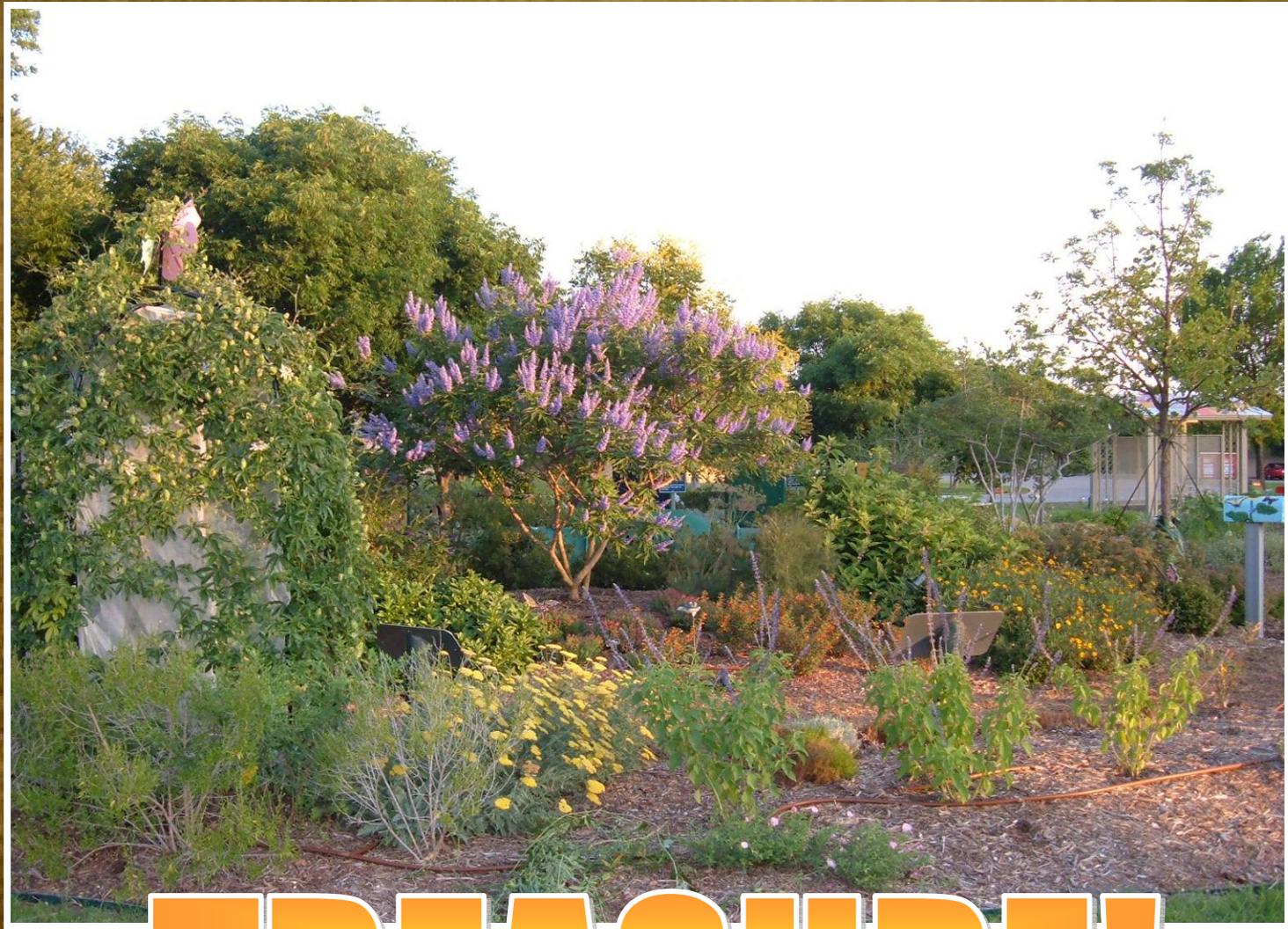
# Uses for Compost

- Potting soil
- Garden beds
  - 1/2" to 1" lightly worked into soil
  - 2" to 4" worked into a new bed
- Trees
  - 1/2" out to drip line





- Lawn application
  - Use as top dressing ¼ to ½”
- New lawn or bed preparation
  - 1 - 2” tilled into 6” of soil



**TREASURE!**