



Composting for a Better Garden & Planet

by Christy Wilhelmi

Pro Tips for Spring 2023

Soil Food Web

Go deeper into the Soil Food Web and its importance in how both soil and compost functions with, [Dr. Elaine Ingham](#), the woman who coined the phrase. Use the link to watch her informative introductory videos. You'll also find information about the SFW and composting (including the formula we used in the lecture) in [Gardening For Geeks](#).

Bring Back the Biostack

If you'd like to sign the petition to Target to encourage them to bring back the best made compost bin in the world (that has been discontinued), [check it out here](#).

Carbon to Nitrogen Ratios (C:N)

Let's face it, C:N Ratios can be confusing. [Here's a chart](#) with common biomass inputs for compost and how they rate on the C:N scale. Don't worry about it too much, compost happens anyway! But if you want to up your game, choose biomass with high C:N ratios for fungal-dominant compost that helps keep powdery mildew and other fungal infestations at bay.

Favorite Tools for Composting

- **Thermometer** – [This one](#) from Peaceful Valley Farm is long enough to do the job and still inexpensive.
- **Digging Fork** – Lee Valley Tools offers many options, but we like [this one](#).
- **Sifter** – Make your own sifter with a few small tools. Find out how in [this Gardenerd blog post](#).
- **Chipper/Shredder** – we love our [Patriot electric 1.5hp chipper/shredder](#). It's less powerful than the gas powered model, but zero fumes.

Brew compost tea?

If you want to stretch your compost or worm castings more, learn to brew Active Aerated Compost Tea. Find instructions on pg. 32 of [Grow Your Own Mini Fruit Garden](#).

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