Composting is easy following these tips

BY MARTY FIGLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

Composting is easy to do, and I advise gardeners to "get into the act." The Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority, Royal Oak, suggests grass clippings should be 25 percent of the total pile and shredded leaves 50 percent, with 25 percent soil or already made compost mixed in.

The **exact** proportions, according to Lillian Dean, coordinator of the SOCRRA Yard Waste Reduction Program, aren't critical; however, avoid using only green materials which will create an odor. Water is essential for the process to work; the pile should be of the consistency of a wrung-out sponge.

To fine-tune your compost, SOCRRA advises:

- When too wet _ turn over and add more material, partially cover compost.
- Too dry _ turn over and add water; shade compost.
- Too cold _ turn over and add high-nitrogen materials, insulate from the cold, build a larger pile.
- Too hot _ turn over and add soil, water if necessary.
- Unpleasant smells _ turn over, add soil and high-carbon materials.

Brown materials are leaves, dead brown plants, straw, wood chips, sawdust, and contain carbon. Green materials are grass clippings, young weeds, old flowers, fruit and raw vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and contain nitrogen.

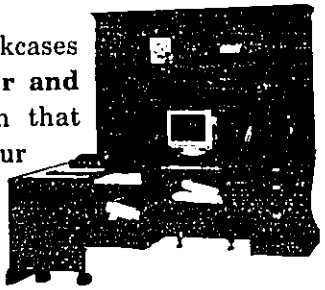
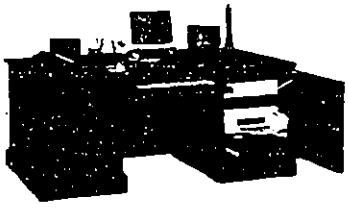
Dry leaves need to be wetted down before being added to the pile, as they will remain dry for months without moisture. A good way to ensure that the leaves are moist is to add a tablespoon or so of liquid soap to a gallon of water and put it on the leaves. The soap helps to make the water "wetter" and subsequently the leaves will absorb more moisture when it rains.

Leaves, grass clippings and such, formerly called debris, are an invaluable organic resource helping to enrich the soil that eventually results in healthy lawns and gardens.

Our landfills are overflowing and we must do all we can to eliminate contributing to that sad situation. We can begin on our own property by mulching the grass clippings and leaves and returning them back to the earth. We, our gardens and future generations will all benefit from following these simple practices.

SPRING SALE
MARCH 1 - APRIL 15
Ash
Showroom
Design Studio
Fabrics • Wallcoverings • Custom Draperies
Furnishings/Accessories
33% OFF WALLCOVERINGS
Imperial, Blonder, Thybony, Seabrook, Warner, Greeff
Designer Handprints and others
FABRICS
Robert Allen, Ruth Wilson, Greeff, Kravet and others.
50% OFF BLINDS
Vertical, Mini, Wood, Pleated Shades
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
SINCE 1948
2374 Franklin Road • Bloomfield Hills
810-858-7010
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9-5 p.m., Sat. 10-4 p.m.
Our Staff Designers Are Here To Assist You In Making The Right Selection
Wholesale/Retail

CLASSIC
INTERIORS
FURNITURE
HOME OFFICE HAS COME TO CLASSIC INTERIORS!

If you are a professional, working out of your home, then you owe it to yourself to see the outstanding selection of computer Armoirs, Desks, Files, Credenzas, and Bookcases **from Sleigh, Hooker and more** that will turn that space or room in your home into a working, functional office.

Enjoy savings of
30% - 40%

And to make it easier to afford, for one week only Classic Interiors WILL PAY YOUR 6% SALES TAX!
CLASSIC
INTERIORS
FURNITURE
VISIT OUR IN-STORE CLEARANCE CENTER
DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE
20292 MIDDLEBELT, LIVONIA (South of 8 Mile)
(810) 474-6900
Open Mon.,Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30; Open Sunday 1-5
• All discounts are off manufacturers' suggested retail prices
• All previous sales excluded.
• Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discount.