

Composting Project

Belmont University
Environmental Studies Students
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The question we want to answer is: Can shredded newspaper be used as a portion of the carbon/brown material in a compost bin? The experiment is a comparison between a bin that is 100% leaves as the carbon/brown material and one that is 75% leaves and 25% shredded newspaper. The newspaper option is often mentioned in books and we would like to find out how well the newspaper option compares to using only leaves.

1. Weighing Leaves & shredding Newspaper



2. Weighing Vegetable Scraps



3. Preparing Compost Bins



4. Shredding Newspapers



5. Adding Leaves to the Bins



Stirring Compost



Adding Vegetable Scraps



Day 1

With newspapers (left)

With leaves only (right)



Mid-Way Through the Project

With newspapers (Left)

With leaves only (right)

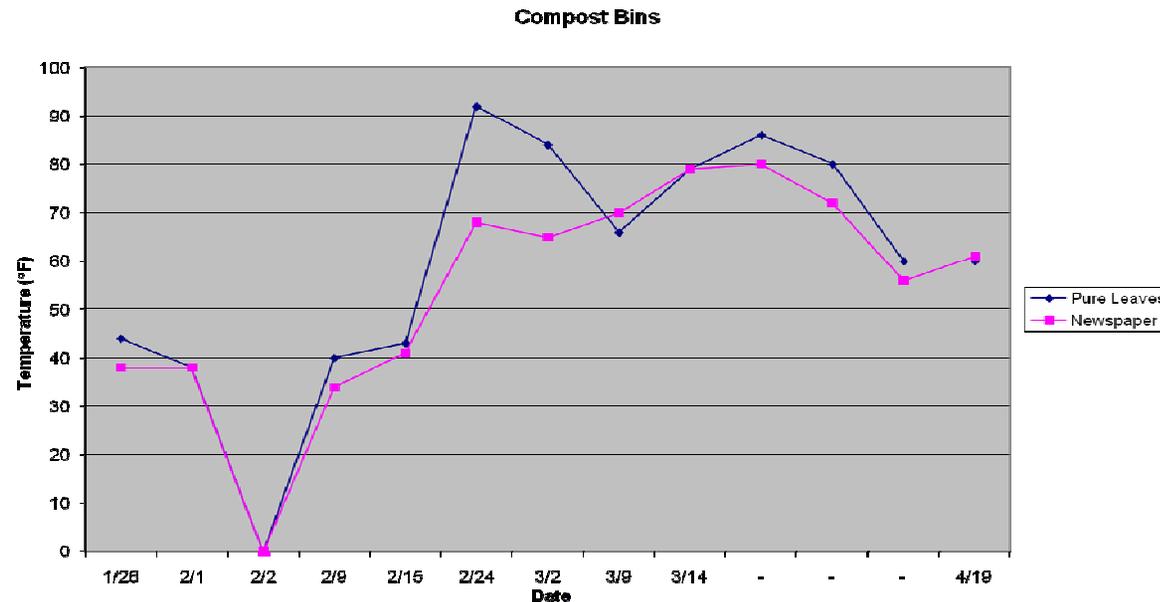




Towards the End
With newspapers – almost all
are decomposed now (above)
With leaves only (right)



Results & Conclusions



- Temperatures for bins with newspaper was comparable to that with leaves only
- Qualitative observations were that:
 - Contents of both bins decayed, producing rich humus compost
 - Volume of newspaper bin decreased more slowly than that of the leaves-only bin
 - Therefore, bins with newspapers produced comparable compost to that of the leaves-only bin