Make and use Compost
SAVE TIME AND $$$$$

What you need
To create a bin for your compost:
• Pallets
• Cement blocks
• Fencing materials
• Anything sturdy

What you do
1. Add compost materials as layers to the bin.
2. Cover kitchen scraps with grass clippings, leaves or old hay. This will help to keep the critters away!
3. Wait. Compost takes time. Give it a few months or even a year. The material at the bottom will be ready when most everything looks the same (it will be hard to identify any original materials).

Compost Materials
• Grass clippings
• Kitchen scraps
• Old hay
• Leaves
• Old plants

When your compost is ready
1. Remove the top layer of un-composted material and start a new pile.
2. Spread a 2-3 inch layer of compost over the garden.
4. Use a tiller, garden fork, or shovel to work compost into your garden when the soil is not too wet.**

** Test the soil for wetness by picking up some soil and making a soft fist.

- Does the soil break apart when poked? Soil is: ☑️ READY to use!
- Does the soil stay in a clump? Soil is: ❌ Too wet. WAIT for soil to dry out.

Alternate model for a compost bin
• Open in front
• Woven wire fencing with posts in the corners

Composting aided by Bugs, Bacteria and Fungi

Brought to you by Grow Well Missouri. Contact Bill McKelvey, University of Missouri, 573.882.4973.
Funding for this project is provided in part by the Missouri Foundation for Health. The Missouri Foundation for Health is a philanthropic organization whose vision is to improve the health of the people in the communities it serves.