

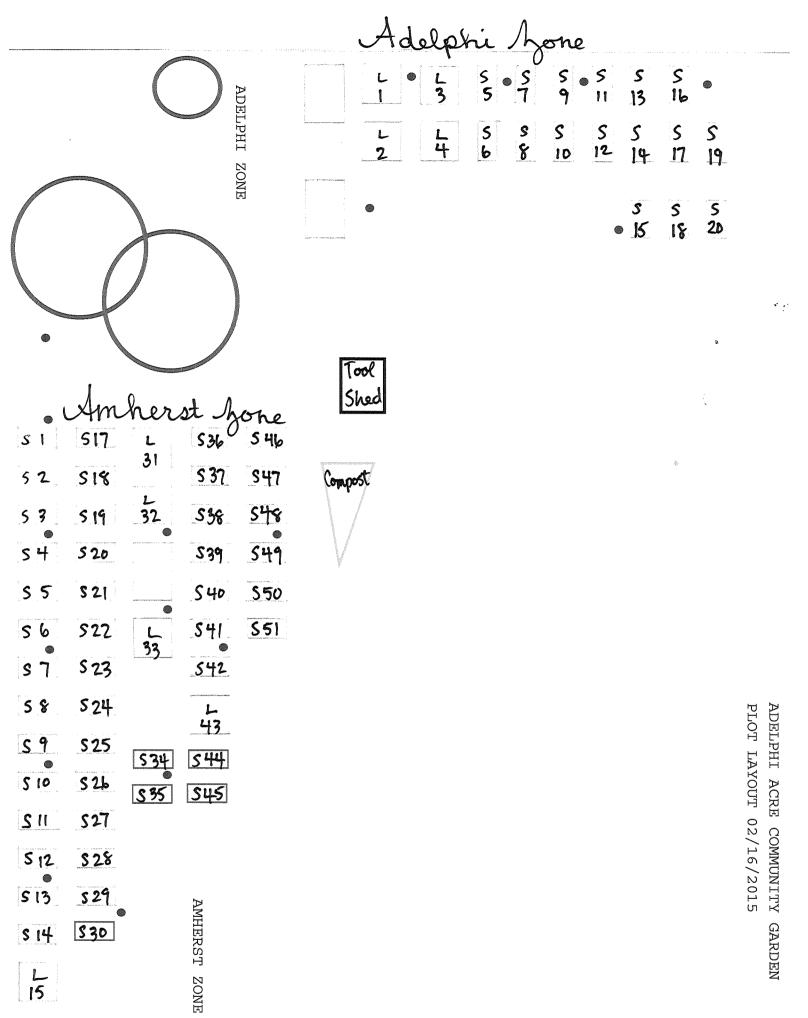
# Garden Guide and Orientation

#### AACG Operation Guidelines and Rules

- 1. All Gardeners shall be treated with respect and courtesy.
- 2. Gardeners are required to control pest grasses and weeds and harvest produce in a timely manner. A garden plot is considered abandoned after two weeks without maintenance. Extended vacations should be discussed with Garden Coordinator, or arrangements otherwise made for care of plot.
- 3. As a community garden, the emphasis is on the word community and all Gardeners are expected to assist and contribute to common upkeep, maintenance and improvement.
- 4. All Gardeners are expected to contribute one hour per month of work on the common grounds, as coordinated by the Garden Coordinator. Multi-hour work days can count toward several months of contributions. Gardeners who share plots with spouses, groups, etc. can assign any member of their party to meet the common work requirement. Examples of common work are:
  - a. Membership in the Steering Committee or Fundraising Committee
  - b. Compost Committee
  - c. Landscaping and planting in the common areas
  - d. Maintenance, construction and/or painting of structures, raised beds, etc.
  - e. Special projects as needed
- 5. Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited. Tobacco carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.
- 6. Dogs are not allowed in the garden due to health concerns.
- 7. Any common tools used must be cleaned and returned to storage. If tools are damaged or lost due to neglect, the Gardener shall be responsible for cost of replacement or repair.
- 8. Gardener is strongly encouraged to use organic plants and seeds, and may only use organic pest control and fertilizers. No GMO or treated seeds are permitted. If you are unsure about your plants, seeds, fertilizers or pesticides, ask the Garden Coordinator for approval.
- 9. No invasive species may be planted. Please ask if you are uncertain.
- 10. Gardeners agree to pay annual Dues, for purposes of water and other recurring costs, of approximately \$15 per year for a 4'x 12' plot and \$30 per year for a 10' x 10' plot. This amount varies year to year, as approved by a vote, but is due before a plot can be cultivated.
- 11. Gardener's Plot cannot be transferred to another person. All unplanted plots must return to the Association to be assigned to the next person on the list. However, Gardeners shall be allowed to exchange plots if mutually agreeable.
- 12. Plots must be kept clear of pests and free of disease. If damaging insects or blights are discovered, they MUST be reported to the Garden Coordinator

immediately. If infestations pose a threat to neighboring plots or the garden in general and lesser treatments fail, plants may need to be removed or destroyed. DO NOT COMPOST DISEASED PLANTS!

- 13. Trees or tree-like plants that can cast shade are not allowed except in specially designated plots or areas. Tree planting must be approved by Garden Coordinator, after a vote of the steering committee.
- 14. Gardener agrees that he shall abide by majority votes of the Association, and shall endeavor to participate in votes and meetings to the best of his or her abilities. Furthermore, Gardener understands that he represents all parties of his plot in his vote, and receives only one vote regardless of the number of plots he tends.
- 15. Gardener agrees to hold harmless the Association and its officers for any injuries or losses incurred on the site. Gardener understands that there may be bees and other insects as well as tools that may cause injury and accepts these risks. Moreover, the Association is not responsible for any personal property lost, stolen or damaged on the site unless a specific written agreement to that effect exists.
- 16. Parking is permitted on Adelphi Lane and Get Me Ready Daycare. Do not park on Amherst. You may park at nearby businesses at your own risk.
- 17. The gate to the garden will be locked when a workday is not in progress. Keys will be in a lockbox for which you will be provided a code. For your own security we ask that you lock the gate behind you. Anyone else who asks to come in needs to know the combination or should not be on the grounds. You may bring up to seven guests with you.
- 18. You must sign out any tools you take from the tool shed, and sign them back in when you are done. Do not leave any of your personal tools in the shed.



L 16

## Transplating Small Plants

## To transplant successfully, handle plants with care and minimize disturbance of plant roots.

- \* Choose an overcast and/or cool day
- \* Water plants
- \* Dig holes
- \* Water holes

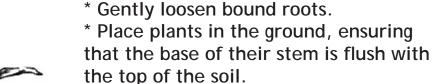
\* To avoid damaging their roots, loosen the plants by gently pressing against their pots.

\* Push plants out of their containers from the bottom rather than pulling them out by their stems. In most cases, you can place one hand over the container with the main stem between your fingers, tip it over



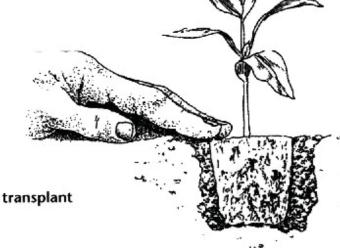
and shake or tap to loosen the root ball. If necessary, pry roots loose using a knife.

\* Keep as much soil packed around the root ball as possible.



- \* Mulch
- \* Water in
- \* Water regularly until plants have

"taken," i.e. when you see new growth, then begin watering less frequently.



## Soil is Alive

Soil is inhabited by organisms that bind organic matter, clay, sand and silt together, forming a crumbly structure that holds water like a sponge and provides a perfect growing medium for plants.

## Functions of Soil Organisms:

\* Composters - As soil organisms consume wood, leaves, plants and other organic materials, they turn these materials into compost.

\* Water retention - Soil organisms exude goo and create webs that bind soil into a crumbly structure with pockets that absorb and that store water.

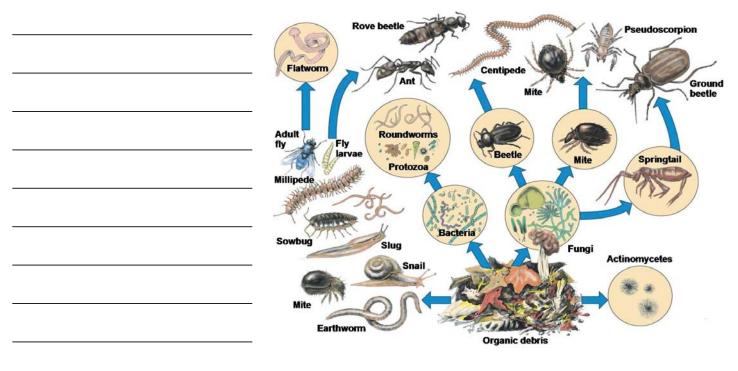
\* Aeration - Soil's unique structure also stores air. In addition, when larger organisms like earthworms move through the soil, they aerate it.

\* Nutrient retention - Soil organisms lock up nutrients in their bodies, ensuring that nutrients do not wash out of the soil.

\* Nutrient absorption - Many nutrients found in organic matter exist in forms not accessible to plants. As microbes consume organic materials, they change the chemical makeup of nutrients into forms that plants can access.

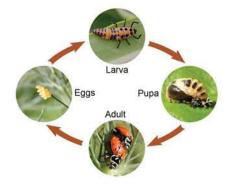
\* **Disease prevention** - Healthy soils contain a diverse range of organisms that suppress plant diseases by outcompeting pests.

\* Purification - Soil organisms break down many pollutants.



### GOOD BUGS

Ladybugs eat aphids ->



...so do lacewings



### Don't confuse these GOOD CATERPILLARS

Painted Lady butterfly caterpillars



Monarch caterpillars (they like butterfly weed)



## Swallowtail caterpillars (they like dill, fennel and rue)



courtesy Anne Woods, for SFC Citizen Gardener

### **BAD BUGS**

Aphids infest lots of edible plants



## ...with these far more destructive BAD CATERPILLARS

cutworms (they like everything, esp. seedlings)



cabbage loopers (they like brassicas, kale, beets)



Tomato hornworms (they like peppers and tomatoes and hate borage)



### THE DREADED SQUASH VINE BORER If your squash or zucchini vines look like this



...you have squash vine borers.

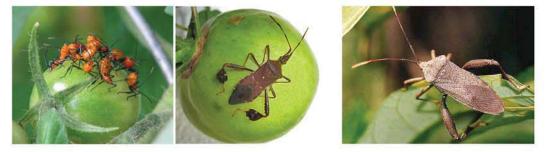


Look for red eggs, and look online for info.



### MORE TOMATO VILLIANS:

Leaf-footed bugs (juvenile and adult) and stink bugs. Time to break out the shop vac.



### Harlequin bugs



A huge tomato hornworm and the huge moth it becomes.



### Organic Pest and Disease Control: Sprays

#### **Baking Soda**

Mixed at the rate of 4 teaspoons per gallon of water, baking soda makes an excellent fungicide for black spot, powdery mildew, brown patch, and other fungal problems. Add 1 teaspoon of liquid soap or vegetable oil to the mix. Potassium bicarbonate is also effective and better for the soil.

#### **Bug Juice Spray**

Slugs and pill bugs can be controlled using a spray made from the bodies of the pest species. To control pill bugs, mix 1 ounce of ground pill bugs with 2 ounces of water to make a paste and then dilute 1 ounce of the bug concentrate in 1 gallon of water spray a heavy amount of the bug juice on problem areas. This same technique works for slugs, squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and other hard-to-kill insect pests such as Mexican bean beetles, armyworms, stink bugs, and cutworms. Always use the juice from the bug you want to control.

#### Citrus Oil Spray

Fill a container ½ full with citrus peelings or pulp. Orange is best. Fill the remainder of the container with water. Let it sit in a cool place for a week or so. Strain. Use 1 cup of the homemade concentrate per gallon of spray. Note: Commercial orange oil is more powerful than homemade orange oil and can burn plants. We recommend using it at a rate of less than 2 ounces per gallon of water as a spray and always mixing it with molasses and compost tea.

#### Compost Tea

Compost tea is effective on many pests because of certain naturally occurring microorganisms. Fill a bucket or barrel half full of compost and finish filling with water. Let the mixture sit for 10-14 days, then dilut, and spray on the foliage of any and all plants including fruit trees, perennials, annuals, vegetables, roses, and other plants that are regularly attacked by insect and disease pests. How much to dilute the dark compost tea before using depends on the compost used. A rule of thumb is to dilute the leachate down to 1 part compost liquid to 4 to 10 parts water. It should look like iced tea. Be sure to strain the solids out with old pantyhose, cheese cloth, or row cover material. Full-strength tea makes an excellent fire ant mound drench when mixed with molasses and citrus oil.

#### Diatomaceous Earth

Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a powder made from fossilized prehistoric crustaceans called diatoms. The sharp edges of DE cut into insects' bodies, causing them to die of dehydration. Lightly sprinkle dry DE on the soil's surface where slugs, newly emerged Japanese beetles, or other unwanted pests will come into direct contact with the dry particles. Renew after rain or heavy dew.

Note: Keep insecticides, even the mild organic choices, away from children and pets, and don't breathe the dust of any dusty product.

Source: Howard Garrett and Malcolm Beck, Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening (1999).

## Organic Pest and Disease Control: Part II

## Additional methods for controlling diseases and pests include:



\* To reduce fungal infections, don't overhead water during the day, don't over water, and don't crowd your plants
\* To attract beneficial insects, plant flowers (such as mari golds and calendula), and let some of your vegetable plants flower and seed

- \* Check the underside of leaves for insect eggs and larvae
- \* Companion planting
- \* Crop rotation
- \* Grow the right plants during the right seasons
- \* Don't kill good bugs
- \* Build your soil





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	Plants grown in late summer will benefit from shade cover during establishment	cover during establishment		TUE	exas AœM Dyste	n, USUA and the	County Commis	SIONETS COULTS OF	I exas cooperau	1g.		January 2012



Daphne Richards, County Extension Agent-Horticulture

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis http://centraltexashorticulture.blogspot.com http://twitter.com/centraltxhort

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County 1600-B Smith Rd, Austin, TX 78721 512-854-9600 travismg@ag.tamu.edu

## Vegetable Varieties for Travis County

by Skip Richter, Travis County Extension Director and Patty Leander, Master Gardener

Green Globe Imperial Star		Indo Cross	05		ays to Harvest
	>150 >100	Jade Cross	85 90	Pickling	
	>100	Long Island Improved		Pickling	гэ
		Diablo	110	Calypso Carolina	52
Asparagus UC 157	2	CARRACE			49
	3 years	CABBAGE	(7)	Cool Breeze	45
UC 72	3 years	Early Jersey Wakefield	62 64	Eureka	56 55
Jersey Giant	3 years	Golden Acre	-	Homemade Pickles	55
		Michihili (Chinese)	78	Slicing	
ASIAN GREENS	50	Optiko (Chinese)	75	General Lee	55
Joi Choi	50	Red Acre	74	Suyo	61
Mei Qing Choi	45			Straight Eight	63
Tatsoi	45	CANTALOUPE (Muskmelon)		Sweet Slice	62
		Ambrosia	86	Tasty Jade	54
BEANS		Caravelle	80		
Bush		Hale's Best	82	EGGPLANT	
Contender	55	Lambkin	70	Black Beauty	74
Derby	57			Ichiban	61
Goldito	54	CARROTS		Fairy Tale	65
Maxibel	50	Chantenay Red Core	65	Ping Tung Long	65
Provider	50	Danvers 126	75		
Roma II	53	Little Finger	65	GARLIC	
Topcrop	50	Mokum	54	Elephant	8-9 months
Pole		Nantes	68	Texas White	8-9 months
Kentucky Wonder	65	Nelson	56		
Garden of Eden	65			GREENS, SPECIALTY	
McCaslan	61	CAULIFLOWER		Cool Season	
Northeaster	56	Cheddar	68	Arugula	40
Romano	60	Snow Crown	50	Corn Salad/Mache	50
Butterbean (Lima)		Snowball Y	68	Curly Endive	60
Dixie Butterpea	76	Graffiti	75	Radicchio Red Preco	60
Fordhook 242	67	Veronica	78	Warm Season	
Bush Henderson	65			Lambsquarter	40
Jackson Wonder	65	CHARD, SWISS		Malabar Spinach	55
Sieva (pole)	80	Bright Lights	60	Molokhia	60
(1)		Fordhook	55	New Zealand Spina	ch 70
BEETS		Rhubarb Red	55	Vegetable Amarant	
Bulls' Blood	60		55	e getable / indicate	
Chioggia	55	COLLARDS		KALE	
Detroit Dark Red	60	Champion	75	Dwarf Blue Curled	55
Golden	55	Georgia Southern	75	Redbor	55
Red Ace	50	Vates	68	Red Russian	60
Ruby Queen	60	vites	00	Toscano (Dino Kale)	
Ruby Gucch	00	CORN			05
BROCCOLI		How Sweet It Is	80	KOHLRABI	
Green Comet	55	Kandy Korn	89	Early White Vienna	55
Marathon	68	Merit Hybrid	80	Kolibri	48
Packman	53	Silver Queen	80 90	NUIDIT	70
Premium Crop			90		
Fremium Crop	62				

LEEKS	Days to Harvest	PEPPER	Days to Harvest	SQUASH, SUMMER Days to	o Harvest
American Flag	130	Hot	<b>j</b>	Patty Pan	
King Richard	75	Cayenne	70-75	Sunburst	52
2		Garden Salsa	73	White Bush Scallop	47
LETTUCE		Habanero	95	Yellow	
Leaf & Bibb		Hungarian Wax	70	Butterstick	50
Black Seeded Simp	son 40	Serrano	70	Dixie Crookneck	41
Buttercrunch	65	Tabasco	80	Multipik	50
Galactic	58	Jalapeño		Zephyr	54
Lollo Rossa	53	El Jefe	67	Zucchini	
Salad Bowl	48	Mucho Nacho	75	Black Beauty	45
Tango	45	Señorita Mild	60	Costata Romanesco	52
Romaine		ТАМ	65-70	Eight Ball	40
Jericho	57	Sweet		Freckles	45
Little Caesar	70	Big Bertha	72	President	49
Parris Island Cos	70	Blushing Beauty	72		
Winter Density	54	California Wonder	75	SQUASH, WINTER	
·····y	•	Cubanelle	68	Table Queen	80
MUSTARD		Gypsy	65	Early Butternut	85
Florida Broadleaf	45	Pimento L	78	Waltham Butternut	85
Osaka Purple	40	Sweet Banana	65	Small Wonder Spaghetti	80
Red Giant	45	Sweet Banking	00	Butternut/Kabocha	
Tendergreen	40	POTATOES		Bon Bon	95
rendergreen	10	Kennebec (white)	75-100	Buttercup	95
OKRA		Red Lasoda	75-100	Sunshine	95
Burgundy	60	Red Pontiac	70-100	Specialty	,,,
Cajun Delight	53	Russet Norkotah	65-70	Carnival	95
Clemson Spineless	56	Yukon Gold	65-75	Delicata	98
Emerald	58	Fingerling	67-60	Sweet Dumpling	100
Louisiana Green Ve		Austrian Crescent	65-75	Sweet Dumping	100
Louisiana Green ve	eivel 55	Russian Banana	65-75	TOMATOES	
ONION		Russiai i Bai iai ia	67-60	Standard	
Bulbing (transplants)		POTATOES, SWEET		Big Beef	73
Contessa	100+	Beauregard	120-140	Celebrity	70
Grano 1015Y	110+	Centennial	120-140	Cherokee Purple	70
	110+	Georgia Jet	120-140	Early Girl	57
Red Burgundy Southern Belle (Red		Jewel	120-140	First Lady	66
White Bermuda	95+	Jewei	120-140	Solar Fire	73
	707	PUMPKIN		Sunmaster	74
Green/Bunching			90		74
Evergreen White	65	Aspen		Cherry	(7
Green Banner	60	Big Max	120	Juliet	62
		Connecticut Field	105	Sugary	60 ( 5
PEAS, GARDEN		Jack-B-Little	90	Sweet Baby Girl	65 57
English	(7)	Jack-O-Lantern	100	Sweet Olive	57
Little Marvel	62	Small Sugar	110	Sweet 100	60
Wando	70	BA BIGU		Yellow Pear	78
Snap	50	RADISH	25	Paste	70
Cascadia	58	Cherry Belle	25	Roma	78
Sugar Ann	52	Easter Egg	30	Viva Italia	72
Super Sugar Snap	60	Misato Rose Red M		TUDNUDC	
Snow	(0)	White Icicle	30	TURNIPS	20
Dwarf Grey Sugar	60	Daikon		Hakurei	38
Oregon Giant	60	April Cross	60	Purple Top White Globe	55
		Minowase	55	Seven Top	45
PEAS, SOUTHERN		Miyashige	50	Tokyo Cross	35
California Blackeye				White Lady	40
Cream 40	60	SPINACH			
Mississippi Silver	65	Bloomsdale	45	WATERMELON	
Pinkeye Purple Hul	I 65	Melody	42	Black Diamond	90
		Space	40	Crimson Sweet	85
		Туее	45	Jubilee	95
				Sugar Baby	75
				1	

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. VEGETABLES—PAGE 2

## Mulch

Covering your garden in a 2-4in. layer of mulch will reduce evaporation from the soil, cutting down on your watering needs. Mulching also suppresses weeds and builds your soil.

Mulching options:

\* Leaves

- \* Pine needless
- \* Seedless hay or straw
- \* Other fine, aged plant materials
- \* Avoid colored wood chips
- \* Leave space between mulch and plant stem



## Water

\* Because Central Texas has a hot, semi-arid climate, successful vegetable gardens require frequent watering.

\* Finger test: if you stick your finger in the bed and it feels dry, it needs water!

\* Water daily after sowing seeds and transplanting

\* Water established plants deeply and less frequently. General guideline is 1 inch of water per week.

### Watering options:

- \* Tap vs. rain water. Rain water is better if it's available!
- \* Ceramic ollas provide deep watering and help reduce the need to water a lot.
- \* Hand watering only at AACG, no drip irrigation.

### Water restrictions:

COA is frequently under various stages of water restrictions. These restrictions do not apply to hand-watering your garden with a soaker hose.

## Composting 101



Select a dry, shady spot near a water source. Ideal size for your compost area is 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep by 3 feet tall (1 cubic yard). You can buy a bin, use chicken wire, or just isolate an area of ground for your compost heap.

Occasionally turn your

This helps speed up the composting

process and keeps things airy, which

cuts the risk of things getting smelly.

compost mixture to

provide aeration.



material in alternate layers. Try and keep the ratio roughly 3 parts browns to 1 part greens. Make sure larger pieces of material are chopped or shredded.



As materials breakdown, the pile will get warm. There might even be steam. Don't be alarmed. That means it's working. Now you just have to wait.



Keep the compost moist

Moisture helps with the breakdown

[but not too wet].

of organic matter.

All done! When material is dark with no remnants of food or waste, your compost is ready. Add it to lawns and gardens or anywhere that could benefit from some good soil.

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### WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

Metal, glass, and other products that do not easily breakdown, coal or charcoal ash, diseased or insect-ridden plants, black walnut tree leaves and twigs, pet waste, bones, meat, fats, oils dairy products and eggs (egg shells are OK), and yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides.

## **Troubleshooting Compost**

Composting is a natural process whereby organisms consume organic matter and break it down into soil. If your compost pile is not composting, your organisms aren't getting the right combination of air, water and nutrients that they need.

## **Problems and Solutions**

Compost pile is not heating up -	<ul> <li>* Not enough nitrogen (green/wet matter) Add fresh lawn clippings or food scraps</li> <li>* Not enough water Water the pile thoroughly</li> <li>* Not enough oxygen Use a pitchfork to turn the pile</li> </ul>
Compost pile smells -	<ul> <li>* Too much nitrogen Add carbon (brown/dry matter) such as leaves, straw, paper, or soft wood chips</li> <li>* Too much water Add carbon and water less</li> <li>* Not enough oxygen Use a pitchfork to turn the pile</li> </ul>
Compost is attracting rats -	* Too wet Add carbon
Compost is attracting cockroaches -	* Too dry Add nitrogen

Once you can no longer identify your food and yard scraps, your compost pile is done.