

## Compost Trouble Shooting

# Too Wet

### Causes

- Too many 'green materials' being added to the bin eg grass clippings fruit peelings. These have high water content and need to be balanced up with dry material to produce good compost.
- Compost being watered too often, either manually or naturally through rainfall.
- Not enough air in the bin.

### Effect

- Compost does not decompose properly due to a lack of oxygen.
- Earth worms and insects die due to the waterlogged conditions.
- Compost gets smelly

### What can you do?

- Add 'brown materials' such as torn up cardboard or paper.
- Mix the material well so you do not have layers of green and brown material.
- Only water the compost if it needs it. Check the middle of the heap, as it may be wet, whilst the top and side appear dry. If so, mix the compost.
- Aerate the compost by mixing it with a garden fork.
- If an open heap is being used for composting, it should be covered with old carpet to keep rainwater out and prevent water logging.
- Do not throw away the compost if it is totally water logged as it can be remedied. It is best to empty the bin totally and mix in a lot of 'brown materials' to balance it up. Or you could dig it into your garden as it is.

### Remember

The compost in a bin or heap should be as moist as a wrung out sponge.

The organisms that compost kitchen and garden waste need a balance of water, air, heat and food to survive, this is what you are aiming for in your compost heap.

If you print this out when you have finished with it why not rip it up and put it in your compost heap!