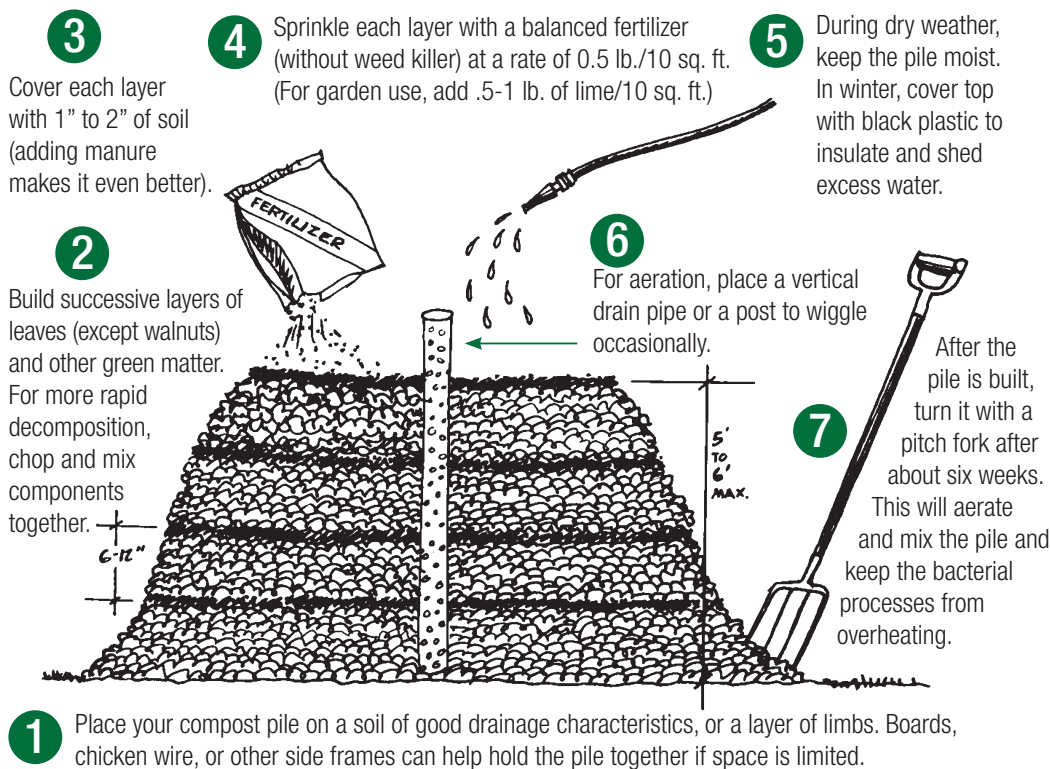


# How to Recycle Shade Tree Materials



from the **TREE CITY USA®**  
**BULLETIN**

## HOW TO MAKE A COMPOST PILE



*“Sustainability” has almost become a household word in recent years. As a society, we seem to be realizing that land and resources are limited and that stewardship is an increasingly important responsibility. Recycling is one of the keys to sustainability. In this issue, you are invited to explore some of the ways that leaves, pruned limbs, and removed trees can keep contributing to the livability of our communities instead of being a wasteful burden.*

## FIREWOOD TIPS

### 1 DRYING

Green wood may be up to 95 percent moisture by weight. It needs to be about 20-35 percent for efficient burning. If kept outdoors and under cover, three to nine months are needed for most species to be dry enough for optimum burning. To know when wood is well-seasoned, periodically weigh a sample piece. When weight loss is negligible, the wood is seasoned.

### 2 DISEASE

Storage of elm wood is illegal in Minneapolis and some other cities. Where storage is allowed, help prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease by stripping the bark off green or dying elm wood and burning it immediately or taking it to a sanitary landfill in bound, plastic bags.

### 3 INSECTS

Prevent termite and other pest problems by keeping your woodpile area clean, tidy, and away from house walls. Use your entire supply annually. When you go camping or move from one residence to another, do not take your firewood with you. There is too much risk of spreading insect pests such as gypsy moths, Asian longhorned beetles, emerald ash borers, and other invasives that are often dispersed in this way.

### 4 BUYING OR SELLING CORDWOOD

Firewood is often bought and sold on the basis of a “cord” of wood. Unfortunately, this term is used differently by different people. A standard cord is 128 cubic feet or a stack of roundwood that measures 4 feet high, 4 feet deep, and 8 feet long. A “face” cord can mean almost anything. This is because it is 4 feet high and 8 feet long, but the depth, or length of each piece of firewood, will vary. When comparing prices, be sure to know what dimensions are being used.

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ Recycling leaves
- ✓ Recycling tree branches
- ✓ Trunks and limbs
- ✓ Getting the most from a Christmas tree
- ✓ What is a cord?
- ✓ Examples of communities in action
- ✓ And more



**Arbor Day Foundation®**  
100 Arbor Avenue • Nebraska City, NE 68410