

What can we compost?

Compost goodies

- Vegetable / fruit peelings and skins / cores
- Coffee grains and tea bags
- Shredded paper (not shiny magazines)
- Cotton and wool materials
- Old plants
- Dead leaves
- Tops of perennial weeds
- Lawn clippings
- Egg shells

Compost baddies

- Woody plant clippings
- Synthetic fabrics
- Cooked food scraps
- Meat or bones
- Diseased plant material
- Soil pests
- Weeds with seeds on
- Oil
- Whole eggs and other dairy products

Activity – can we compost it?



- 1** Before the class arrives place the two signs a few metres either side of the central area.
- 2** Start with a general discussion about compost, how it is important for plant growth and how it is an important way to recycle in the garden. Could show the pupils some examples of shop bought and home-made compost if available and discuss cost and how compost heaps make free compost.
- 3** Give each pupil an item from the box – make sure there is a mix of compostable and non-

compostable items. Get each pupil in turn to tell the rest of the group what they have and ask whether they think it is compostable – there can be a group decision on this. They then go and stand by either the yes or no sign as appropriate. Discussions can include how items such as paper, cardboard and tea bags all come from plants.

- 4** At the end of the activity highlight how many things can be composted and how this will be an important part of gardening activities during the year.

Can you compost what's in your lunchbox?

- 1** Identify the items in the lunchbox as either compostable, recyclable or to go to landfill. May include discussion on food groups, and Eat 5 a day with children.
- 2** Complete a pie chart showing % compost, % recycle or reusable, % landfill or simply sort into 3 bags.
- 3** Discuss how the landfill items may be reduced, and the importance of composting the organic waste