**Grasscycling**

Grasscycling is a quick and easy way to recycle your grass clippings and fertilize your lawn at the same time! It saves time and money, reduces the need for frequent watering and chemical fertilizers, and promotes healthy lawn growth. Grasscycling is simple: just take the bag off your mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. The nitrogen-rich clippings decompose quickly, adding nutrients to the soil and helping your lawn retain water.

**Mulch**

Mulch is different from compost in the way that the materials are processed and used. While compost is fully decomposed material that can be used as a soil amendment, mulch is uncomposted material that is spread over the surface of the soil. Using mulch has many benefits: It prevents soil erosion, reduces the evaporation of water from the soil, and inhibits weed growth. It has even been shown to reduce the incidence of certain plant diseases. The best way to apply mulch is to spread a layer approximately 3-inches thick around the base of plants. Take care to keep the mulch from touching the base of plant stems or trunks.

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### Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Problem</th>
<th>The Cause</th>
<th>The Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compost smells offensive</td>
<td>Anaerobic conditions (not enough air)</td>
<td>Turn the pile, add more browns to the pile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pile doesn’t heat up</td>
<td>Pile too small, too dry and/or not enough greens</td>
<td>Add more greens to the pile, add water while turning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material isn’t breaking down quickly</td>
<td>Not enough moisture and/or large material size</td>
<td>Add water, chop materials into smaller pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pile is attracting ants</td>
<td>Pile too dry, food scraps not buried</td>
<td>Add water, bury all food scraps in core of pile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive flies and/or rodent foraging</td>
<td>Food scraps exposed, wrong ingredients</td>
<td>Bury food scraps in core, do not add meat, dairy or oils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Composting Complements

**Grasscycling**

Don’t fret! Composting is a very forgiving process, and any problems that arise are often easily corrected.

**Additional Resources**

**Composting is best learned by doing. With experience, you will learn what works best for you. For further exploration...**

*Call the Hotline*

(760) 436-7986 ext 222

A hotline for all your composting questions! Open to City of San Diego, Unincorporated County, City of Encinitas, and City of Carlsbad residents

*Visit our Online Resources Page*

[www.solanacenter.org/ciy](http://www.solanacenter.org/ciy)

Expanded Composting and Vermicomposting Info, Free Compost Workshop Schedule, Demonstration Garden Site List, Master Composter Course Info, and MORE!