

Composting is easy!

To make compost, just follow these simple steps:

1. Add three parts "browns"...

Fall leaves, straw, salt marsh hay, shredded paper and cardboard (newspaper, paper towels, paper plates, paper bags), chipped brush, sawdust, pine needles (pine needles should not make up more than 10% of total material in pile).

...and one part "greens"

Grass clippings, weeds (not laden with seeds), vegetable and fruit wastes, seaweed, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, manure (horse, cow, rabbit, chicken, goat, gerbil, etc).

2. Mix or layer materials.

After every 12" or so, add a few shovelfuls of rich soil or compost.

3. Keep it damp and aerated.

Wait a few months, and voilà...black gold!

For best results, and to keep out odors and pests,

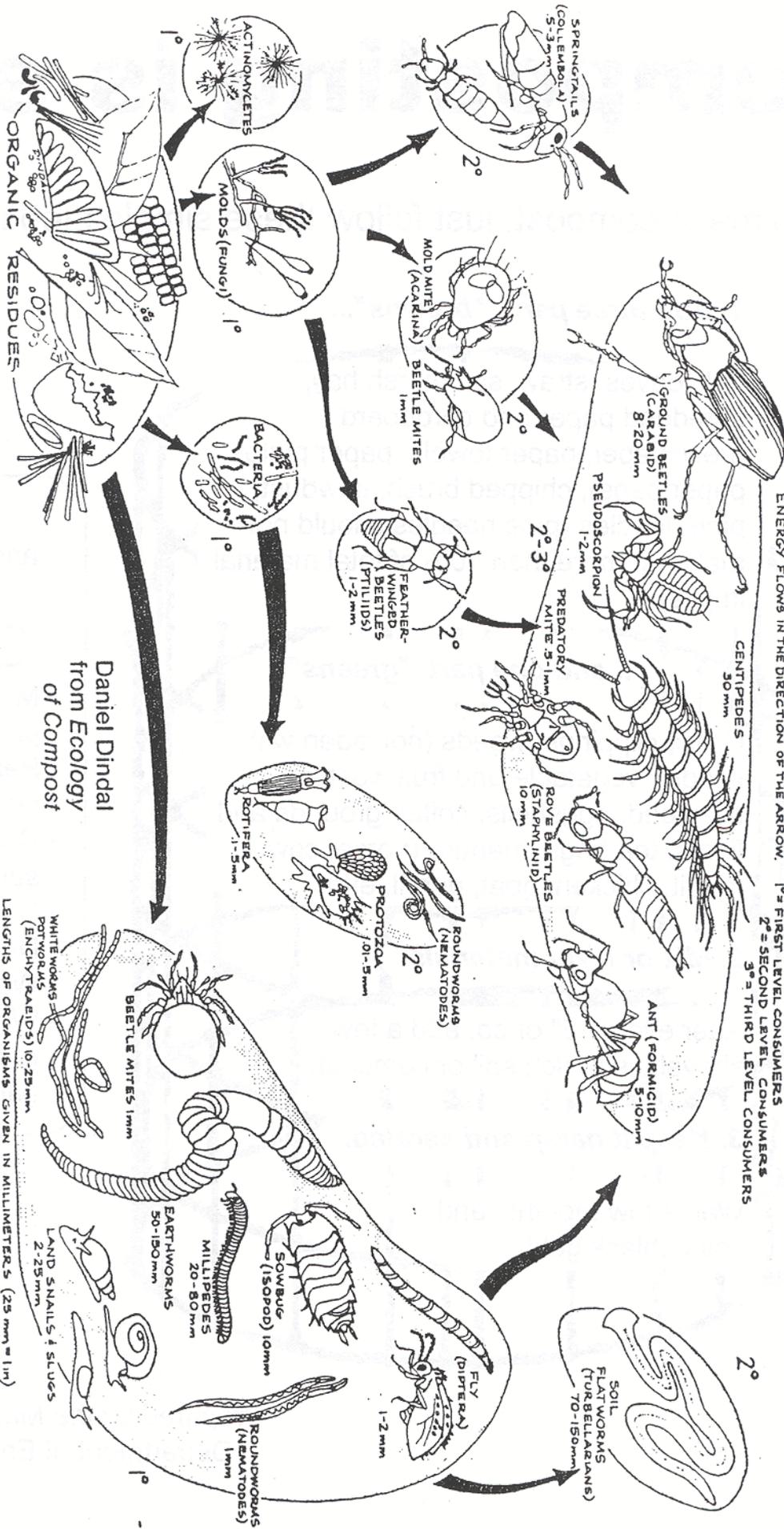
DO NOT ADD:

- Meat, bones, fat, grease, oils
- Peanut butter
- Dairy products
- Cooked foods with sauces or butter
- Dog and cat manure
- Diseased plants
- Weeds gone to seed
- Weeds that spread by roots and runners (vines)



FOOD WEB OF THE COMPOST PILE

ENERGY FLOWS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW.



Daniel Dindal
from Ecology
of Compost

Organisms commonly found in compost. Energy flows from organism to organism as one is eaten by the other in a natural recycling system.