Enviro Notes

Environment Periodical for change makers

(An Environment Awareness Initiative by Nirvaan Somany)

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Oceans and Our Environment

The oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, and are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also play a crucial role in regulating our planet's climate, weather patterns, and food chains. However, despite their immense importance, our oceans are facing a multitude of threats, including overfishing, pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction. In this article, we will explore why it is essential that we take action to protect our oceans.

The oceans are the lifeblood of our planet. They provide half of the oxygen we breathe, regulate the Earth's temperature and weather patterns, and support a vast array of ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, the oceans are essential for our economies and livelihoods, providing jobs, food, and recreation opportunities for millions of people worldwide.

Overfishing is one of the most significant threats to the health of our oceans. It is estimated that nearly 90% of the world's fish stocks are either fully exploited or overexploited. Overfishing can lead to the collapse of entire fish populations, which can have devastating consequences for the ecosystems that depend on them, as well as the people who rely on them for food and income.

Pollution is another major threat to our oceans. Every year, millions of tons of plastic, oil, and other pollutants are dumped into the oceans, contaminating the water and harming marine life. This pollution can also have serious health impacts on humans who consume contaminated seafood or swim in polluted waters.

Climate change is causing significant changes in our oceans, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and changes in water temperature and currents. These changes can have a profound impact on marine ecosystems, including the loss of habitats and the displacement of species. Climate change can also have ripple effects

(to be continue on page 2)

Spring is in the Air

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and rejuvenation in the natural world. As the temperatures warm up and the days become longer, plants and animals begin to emerge from their winter slumber and the world comes back to life. In this article, we will explore the ways in which spring impacts the environment and how we can take steps to protect it.

Effects of Spring on the Environment:

Spring brings a number of changes to the environment, including:

1. Increased biodiversity: As plants begin to bloom and trees begin to leaf out, a variety of insects, birds, and other animals emerge from hibernation or migrate back to their breeding grounds.
2. Changes in water levels: Melting snow and increased rainfall can cause water levels in rivers, streams, and lakes to rise.
3. Soil nutrient cycling: As plants begin to grow, they take up nutrients from the soil and incorporate them into their tissues. When these plants die or shed their leaves, those nutrients are returned to the soil, helping to maintain soil fertility.
4. Increased carbon dioxide uptake: As plants grow and photosynthesize, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations.

Protecting the Environment in Spring:

There are a number of steps that we can take to protect the environment during the spring season:

1. Plant native species: By planting native plants in your garden, you can help support local biodiversity and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.
2. Conserve water: As water levels rise in the spring, it can be tempting to use more water for irrigation or outdoor activities. However, it's important to conserve water by using low-flow fixtures, collecting rainwater, and watering plants during cooler parts of the day.
3. Reduce waste: Spring cleaning can generate a lot of waste, including old clothes, electronics, and other items. To reduce waste, consider donating unwanted items to charity, recycling where possible, and composting organic waste.
4. Reduce energy use: As the weather warms up, it can be tempting to turn up the air conditioning or drive more frequently. However, reducing energy use by using public transportation, biking, or walking, and turning off lights and electronics when not in use can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conclusion:

Spring is a time of renewal and growth in the natural world, but it's important to take steps to protect the environment during this season. By planting native species, conserving water, reducing waste, and reducing energy use, we can help support a sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle. Let's embrace the beauty of spring while taking steps to protect the environment for future generations.

Oceans and Our Environment

(continues from page 1)

throughout the food chain, affecting everything from plankton to whales.

Habitat destruction, such as coral reef destruction, is another significant threat to our oceans. Coral reefs are home to a quarter of all marine species, and they also protect shorelines from storms and erosion. However, they are under threat from a variety of factors, including overfishing, pollution, and climate change.

Protecting our oceans is not just an environmental issue - it's also an economic one. The oceans provide billions of dollars in economic benefits every year, including fisheries, tourism, and shipping. However, these benefits are at risk if we continue to damage our oceans through overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction.

There are many solutions available for protecting our oceans. These include reducing our reliance on single-use plastics, enforcing fishing regulations, reducing carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, and investing in marine conservation and restoration projects. By working together to implement these solutions, we can help to ensure that our oceans remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Our oceans are essential to our planet's health and well-being, and they are facing a multitude of threats. However, by taking action to reduce pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction, we can help to protect our oceans and the many species that call them home. It's up to all of us to make a difference and ensure that our oceans remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Don't Toss it - Compost it!

Composting is a natural process that involves breaking down organic materials into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. It is an easy and effective way to reduce waste, improve soil health, and support a sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle. In this article, we will explore the benefits of composting, the materials that can be composted, and how to start composting at home.

Benefits of Composting:

Composting has many benefits for the environment and for your garden. Here are a few of the main advantages:

1. Reduces waste: Composting diverts organic materials from landfills, where they would otherwise take up space and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Improves soil health: Compost adds nutrients to the soil, improves soil structure, and enhances the ability of soil to retain moisture.
3. Saves money: Composting can reduce the need for fertilizers and other soil amendments, which can save money for gardeners and farmers.
4. Reduces water usage: Compost helps soil retain moisture, which can reduce water usage in gardens and landscapes.

Materials that can be Composted:

Almost any organic material can be composted. Here are a few examples of common compostable materials:

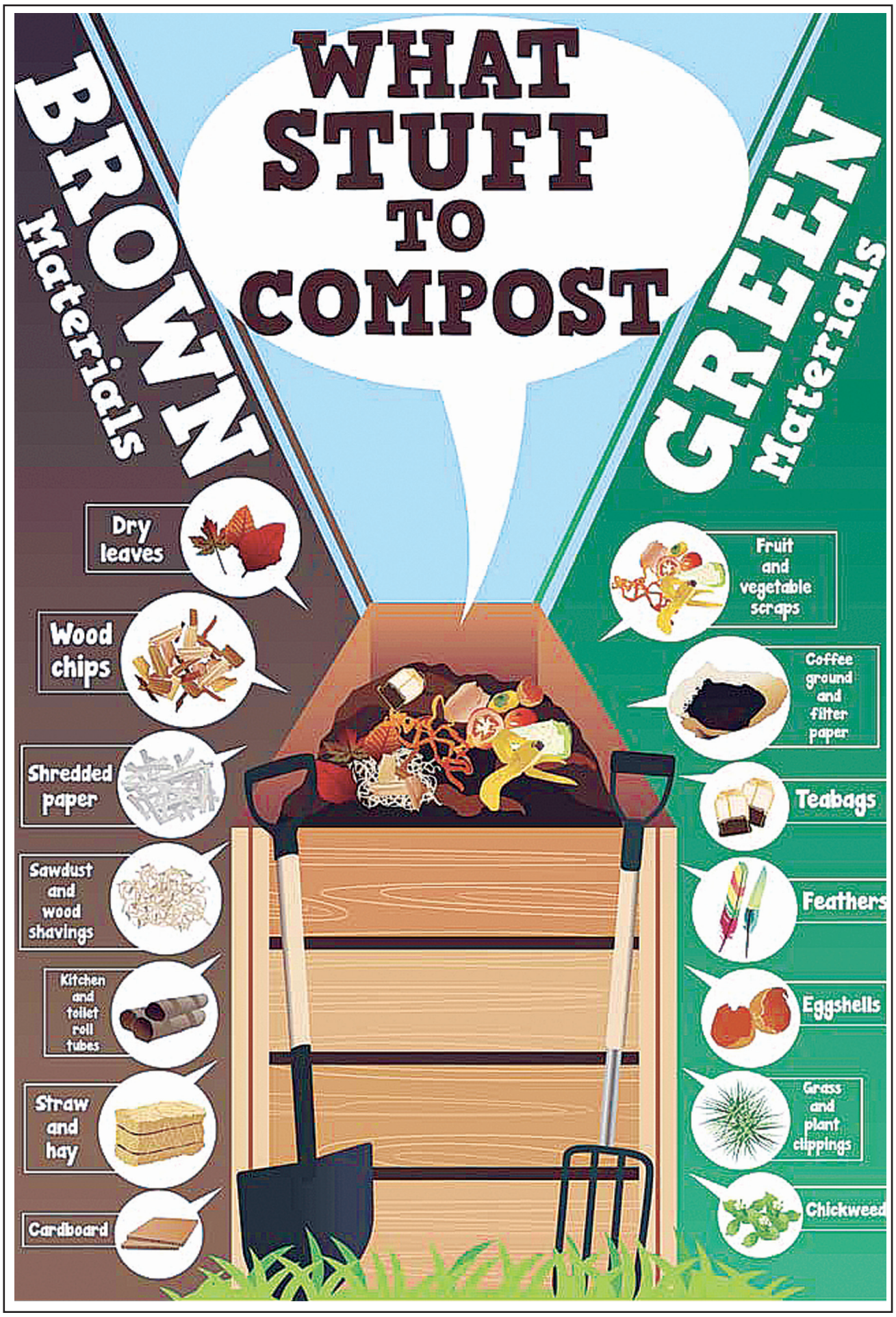
1. Fruit and vegetable scraps
2. Coffee grounds and tea bags
3. Yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, etc.)
4. Eggshells
5. Paper products (newspaper, cardboard, etc.)
6. Food-soiled paper (napkins, paper towels, etc.)
7. Dryer lint
8. Hair and fur
9. Sawdust

How to Start Composting at Home:

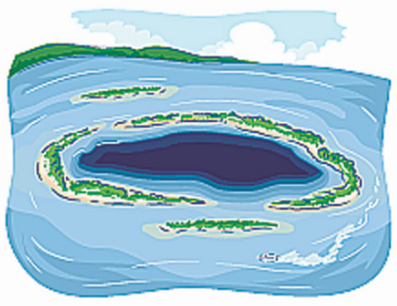
Starting a compost bin at home is easy and requires only a few materials. Here are the basic steps to get started:

1. Choose a location: Composting can be done in a variety of containers, including a pile in the backyard, a bin, or a tumbler. Choose a location that is convenient and has good drainage.
2. Collect compostable materials: Collect a variety of compostable materials, including food scraps, yard waste, and paper products.
3. Layer the materials: Layer the materials in your compost bin, alternating between wet (food scraps, yard waste) and dry (leaves, sawdust) materials. Aim for a ratio of 3:1 browns (carbon-rich materials) to greens (nitrogen-rich materials).
4. Add water: Add water to the compost pile to keep it moist, but not soaking wet.
5. Turn the compost: Turn the compost pile regularly to help mix the materials and speed up the composting process.
6. Use the compost: Once the compost has decomposed into a dark, crumbly substance, it is ready to use in your garden or landscape.

In conclusion, composting is a simple and effective way to reduce waste, improve soil health, and support a sustainable lifestyle. By composting at home, you can create a valuable soil amendment that will benefit your garden and the environment.



5 UNBELIEVABLE FACTS ABOUT THE OCEAN



1.

Our oceans cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface

2.

Less than five per cent of the planet's oceans have been explored

3.

The world's longest mountain chain is underwater

4.

There are more historic artefacts under the sea than in all of the world's museums

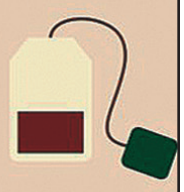
5.

We still only know a fraction of the marine species in our oceans

Materials that can be composted

peels of all uncooked vegetables and fruits

teabags, tea leaves, and coffee grounds



egg shells

dead flowers, dead leaves, and lawn mowings

dog and cat hair from the brush

plain paper documents such as bills

cotton clothing and jeans