



## Thank you!

Thanks for purchasing your new Keyhole Garden! The Keyhole Garden is a gardening technique native to many communities in Africa.

Follow the instructions in these pages to get the most out of your Keyhole Garden so you can grow, enjoy and share healthy foods.



## How much Household Waste can you use in your Keyhole Garden?

Your new Keyhole Garden is a compost and kitchen waste gobbling machine! You will be surprised how easy it is to organically turn common waste into a rich growing environment for your fruits and vegetables.

Here's what you can use:

- Waste cardboard (about 30+ large boxes broken down)
- Green compostable material (3 large garden-bags of grass clippings or green leaves / twigs)
- Brown compostable material (sticks, twigs, brown leaves, more cardboard or sawdust)
- 20 - 30 cu ft of compost or topsoil (to put on the top of the bed)
- 2 cu ft of rocks, or broken pottery (to put at the bottom of the compost basket)



*Note: If you'd rather not use the Keyhole Garden as a composting bed, simply load it up full of good soil instead. Then start planting!*

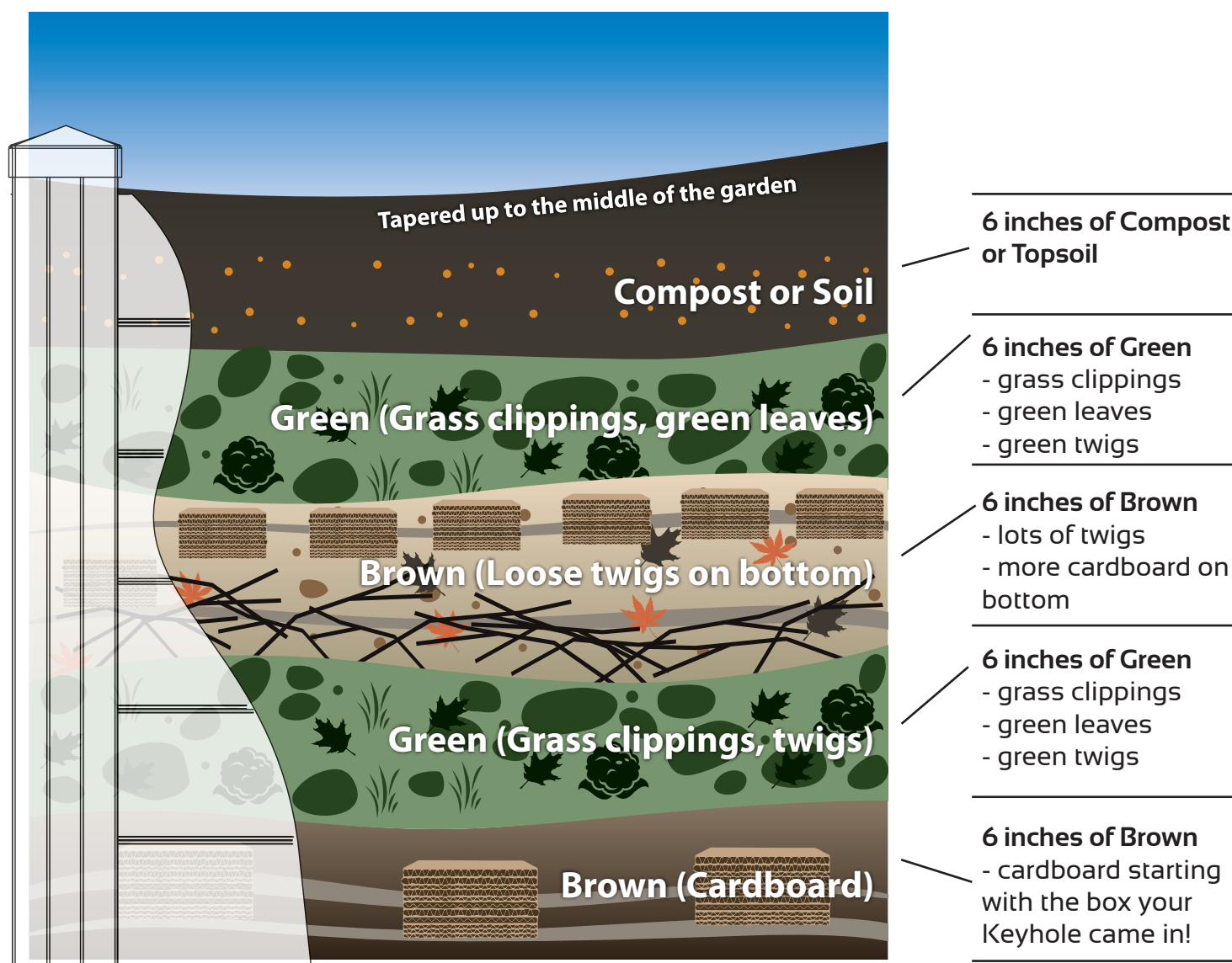


## Keyhole Garden Setup Instructions

The magic of the Keyhole Garden is a few steps away. But these steps are important to setting up a long term successful Keyhole Garden.

The magic of the Keyhole Garden is in it's composting abilities. The Keyhole literally uses piles of common household waste and converts it into a rich growing enviroment for your vegetables to grow.

The diagram below shows the different layers you should plan out to start your Keyhole Garden.





The **Composting Basket** is key to adding nutrients to your garden bed. It's here where you can continually use up your regular kitchen scraps to nourish your **Keyhole Garden**. For best composting success use the same Brown-Green alternating technique as this helps your compost work the best.

**1** Put some stones or broken pottery at the bottom of the basket. This will help in drainage and encourage nutrients to enter the garden bed.

**2** Using the same alternating technique (6 inch layers of Brown - Green) put in layers of compostable materials. For Brown use leaves, small sticks or cardboard. For Green use green leaves, vegetable clippings and grass.

**3** As the basket begins to compost, it will shrink. Keep adding your kitchen scraps as time goes on. You can even use coffee grinds (and filters), newspaper and egg shells!

**4** Water primarily through the **Compost Basket**. This will encourage the nutrients to travel into the Keyhole Garden bed. If the Compost Basket starts to smell rotten, it likely has too much water. Reduce the water for a few days.





# THINGS YOU CAN Compost

## *Greens* NITROGEN

- vegetable clippings
- grass clippings
- green leaves
- fruit peels and rinds (minimal citrus)
- egg shells
- tea bags / tea leaves
- plant trimmings
- apple cores
- green twigs
- lettuce
- house plants
- manure
- seaweed

## *Browns* CARBON

- dryer lint
- cardboard
- shredded paper
- brown leaves
- twigs
- coffee grinds and filters
- wine corks
- wood ashes
- oatmeal
- cereal grains
- spent grains from beer making
- sawdust
- torn up cotton clothing or burlap

