STEP 4 PROP A BARRIER IN FRONT OF THE BIN

Prop a temporary barrier in front of the 'open door' about 500 mm high to keep the contents in place. This temporary low 'front door' will allow for ease of piling till it is about ½ full. Some props will be needed to hold it in place – bricks, rocks or full kitchen scraps buckets.

STEP 5 BROWN LAYER - CARBON

Add a layer of dried vegetation about 250mm thick. This can be dried weeds, shredded paper, dried leaves or wood shavings.

To dry out weeds from site they will need to be stored off the ground and in containers/bags that don't trap the moisture.

STEP 6 GREEN LAYER - NITROGEN

Add a layer of green material about 150mm thick - ie fresh weeds and vegetable scraps. These will be the weeds mostly recently collected which are still green, such as weed grasses.

Green kitchen waste needs to be stored carefully to ensure it doesn't attract animals. Do not include meat or fats.

STEP 7 ACCELERANT LAYER

Add a thin layer of accelerant materials about 50mm thick – chook manure, grass clippings, comfrey, yarrow, urine, dolomite, seaweed.

STEP 8 LIQUID

After each accelerant layer, add water in any of the following ways ;

- Weed tea – made by soaking weeds in water for at least a few days, but longer is better;
- Comfrey tea – same as weed tea, except more potent, particularly if it has been soaking for weeks;
- Seaweed mix;
- Water

STEP 9 REPEAT

Repeat layers outlined in steps 5, 6, 7 & 8 until the bin is about ½ full

STEP 10 WIRE FRONT PANEL ON

When bin is about ½ full wire on the front panel and remove the temporary barrier

STEP 11 REPEAT LAYERS & ADD A LID

Continue to repeat steps 5, 6, 7 & 8 until the bin is full – finish with the carbon layer. It is best to overfill it as the contents will pack down within a day or two. It is useful to have something for the first few weeks to stop the top layer from blowing away, but still lets the rain in - hessian bags, old cotton clothes, or branches.

STEP 12 WIND BARRIER

Whilst your bin needs good air flow, it works best if the heat can also be retained. Shade cloth or sediment control fabric works well to cut down the cooling effect of breezes.

STEP 13 HANG OUT WEED BAGS & CLEAN UP

It is important to hang out the weed bags to dry for a few days, then store for reuse. Allow time to clean out and dry kitchen scraps buckets. Next is you – you will be a bit smelly too!

Don't worry if your new compost bin is smelly at first; this will go in a day or so.

STEP 14 DO NOT ADD ANYTHING MORE TO THE BIN, OR TURN IT

The bin should now be left alone. Adding to it or aerating stops it working.

STEP 15 USE COMPOST ON YOUR OWN GARDEN

After about 3 months it should be ready to use. There will be some materials at the edges that need to be put aside to go in the next bin. Take off the front panel, so it is easy to get at. You can then keep the bin in this location or move it – it is easy enough to move with the 3 panels connected. When you have collected enough material you can start again .

Compost Layers

there may be more repeats of the Brown/Green/Accelerant layers than shown

LID	
BROWN LAYER – CARBON	250mm
ACCELERANT & WATER	50mm
GREEN LAYER - NITROGEN	150mm
BROWN LAYER – CARBON	250 mm
ACCELERANT & WATER	50 mm
GREEN LAYER - NITROGEN	150 mm
BROWN LAYER – CARBON	250 mm
COMPOST - Undecomposed from previous pile	
STICKS - Base	

HOW TO BAKE MONTBRETIA CORMS

Corms need to be dried to kill them. Keep them out of the compost as best you can as the wet and warm compost provides perfect growing conditions!
If they get caught up and start growing in the compost it is easy enough just to pull them out and put them in your drying/baking system. This system also works for Watsonia.

1. Get a black plastic compost bin from council or a similar container.
2. Locate the bin in a place that gets good northern sun all year round.
3. Sit it up off the ground, on a stand covered in mesh to allow the air to flow , eg use steel mesh covered in metal flyscreen, or something else that will stop the corms falling through, but allow air to circulate and moisture to drain.
4. Before putting corms in the bin, for best results to avoid any regrowth:
   - knock off all soil
   - let corms dry off if wet
   - take off any green leaves
5. Put your corms in the bin and they will break down to nothing.

Corms can be progressively added. Once dried, these can be used as fire starters.
If left longer, a dry ash like material only remains which can be put on the garden.

HOW TO COMPOST WEEDS

None of your weeds need to go to landfill, they can all be composted, including seeds & tubers (except Montbretia corms*).
This **hot composting method** will compost down your weeds in about 3 months.

This system needs to be done **at one time**.
It relies on collecting and storing materials until you have sufficient material to fill an whole bin; you will need about 35 of the small weed bags plus your kitchen scraps (see steps 5 & 6).
Do not keep adding to your bin. It is designed to generate sufficient heat to break down all material. It is the proportions of materials and the bulk that enables this process to work.
1 cubic metre is the smallest that will work.

What to remove from your Bushcare site.
Only take away the parts of the weed plants that may grow again or grow into new plants: ie seeds/flowers, corms, rhizomes, and those branches that can layer. If possible, it is best to 'raft' branches off the ground. Where possible, leaving the material on site is best practice.

MATERIALS & TOOLS
For initial set up
Steel mesh – 4 panels 1m x 1 m (see step 2)
Tie wire & pliers
Plywood or solid board - 1 m x 500m (or width of the front of your bin x approx. 500mm)
4 bricks or large rocks
Shade cloth, sediment control fabric or other (see step 12) - total 4.5 m x 1 m
Water & brush for cleaning up
Garden fork

Ongoing collection for each bin refill
Dead dry weeds (carbon), and/or shredded paper (see step 5).
Fresh green weeds & kitchen scraps (step 6) .
Chook manure or other accelerant (see step 7)
Weed tea (see step 8)

It can take a good half day to assemble/fill a bin.

STEP 1 SELECT A LOCATION
It is ideal to locate your 'bin' somewhere that will benefit from the nutrients that will leach into the ground; eg under a fruit tree, upslope of your vegie garden, NOT near bushland or a creek. A spot that has some wind protection is ideal; eg from a fence or shrubs.

STEP 2 CONSTRUCT A FRAME
The minimum size of compost needed to generate sufficient heat is 1 cubic metre; ie 1 m x 1 m x 1 m high. But the larger it is the better.
Steel mesh with 50mm X 50 mm squares is an ideal material and comes in sheets of 2000 x 1200. Cut 2 sheets into 1/2s giving 4 panels of 1m x 1.2m. Then wire 3 sides together using tie wire, leaving the front one open for now. This will allow you to start filling the bin easily without straining your back.

STEP 3 BASE LAYER
Lay down a layer of sticks or loose material that will provide aeration

* See back page for dealing with Montbretia & Watsonia corms