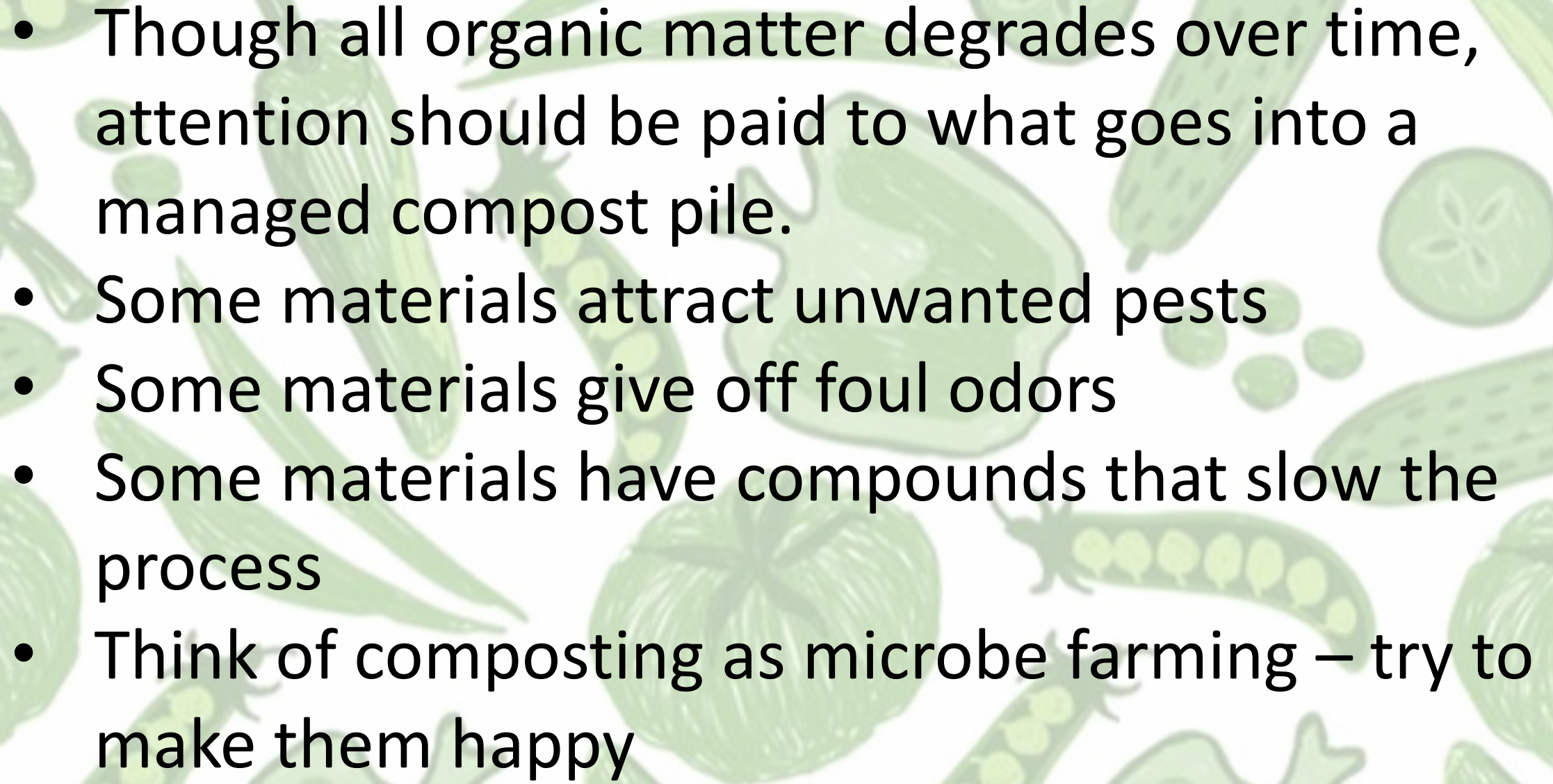


Module 04 – What to Put in Your Compost Pile

LSU AgCenter Home Composting Certificate Course

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- Though all organic matter degrades over time, attention should be paid to what goes into a managed compost pile.
 - Some materials attract unwanted pests
 - Some materials give off foul odors
 - Some materials have compounds that slow the process
 - Think of composting as microbe farming – try to make them happy

What Do Microbes Need?

- Carbon – high carbon compounds as energy for their metabolism
- Nitrogen – biosynthesis of proteins, enzymes and nucleic acids
- Water – for movement, essential for life functions
- Oxygen - respiration
- Hospitable environment

Browns vs Greens

Raw materials generally classified as either BROWN material or GREEN material

Brown Materials -

- Break down slowly
- High in carbon (high C:N ratio)
- Strong and fibrous.
- Dry (low moisture content)
- Bulky and take up space (provides texture and air pockets)

Green Materials –

- Break down rapidly
- High in nitrogen (low C:N ratio)
- Soft and pliable
- High moisture content
- Easily compacted

Common Brown Materials



Dry leaves



Cardboard



Burlap



Eggshells



Straw & Hay



Twigs & Branches



Rice Hulls



Sawdust & wood chips



Natural fiber - cotton, wool, silk, linen, hemp



Corn Cobs & Stalks



Newspaper & Junk Mail



Pine Needles



Feathers

Common Green Materials



Grass Clippings



Table Scraps



Vegetable Scraps



Fruit Scraps



Flowers



Coffee Grounds



Weeds



Green Leaves



Manures



Please post all your questions and results to the message board .

