Rules of Composting:

Compost needs: WATER - FOOD - OXYGEN

3:1 ratio of brown ingredients to green ingredients

Brown = dead leaves, napkins, plants, paper towels, wood chips, straw, twigs, shredded paper = carbon rich
Green = food scraps, grass cuttings (without weeds), coffee grounds, rotten vegetables, tea bags

NO meat or dairy, bones, eggs (but egg shells are ok)
NO Weeds

Acceptable but LIMITED: pasta, citrus, fireplace ash, evergreen needles, oak leaves

If you do nothing else, decomposition should take about a year

If you want to speed up the decomposition process do the following:

Add worms to the pile - red wigglers
shred your leaves first — all three increase oxygen
Stir the pile often
keep the pile moist (not drenched) — water is key ingredient

Benefits:

1. Improves lawn and gardens. Compost is not soil, but it adds nutrients to the soil and holds moisture.
2. Saves money. No more leaf bags, fertilizer, trips to the dump
3. Helps the environment. 32% of waste delivered to the central dump last year could have been composted. At the dump, it adds to the greenhouse gas methane.

OR: you can buy compost from Resource Recovery!

For more information on composting, go to the Resource Recovery web site: www.rirrc.org.