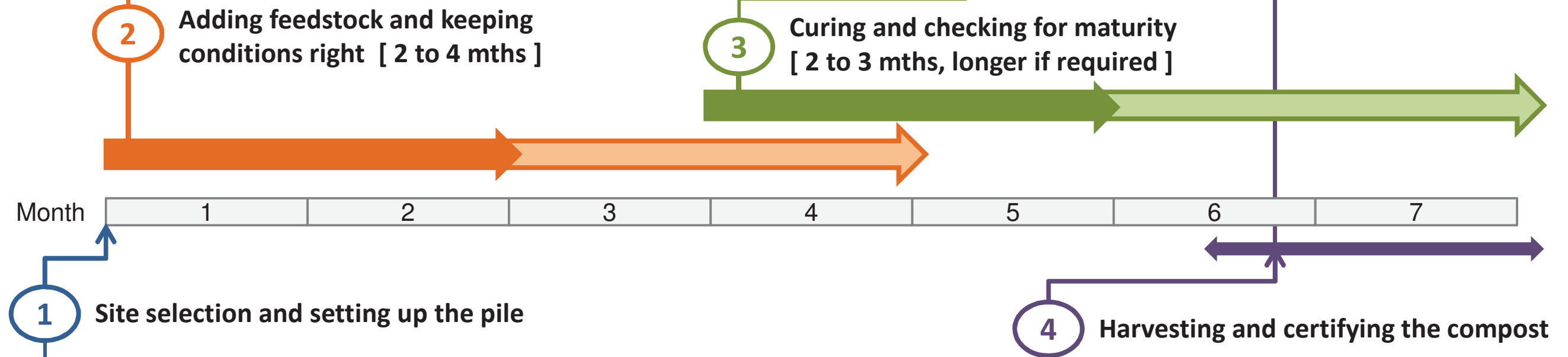


- After setting up the pile initially:
 - Stir/Turn and mix the materials in the bin (for aeration), and add water to moisten, weekly if possible (even when not topping up the bin).
 - Top up the bin with grass and leaves (in the 1:2 volume ratio) periodically (when pile height has dropped), adding as much materials as possible each time. (If grass-cutting is scheduled every 2 weeks, the topping up can be every 2 weeks.)
- To ensure that conditions are right, it is good to measure and record the following parameters weekly or every time the pile is worked on:
 - Temperature within the pile, e.g., using a long probe compost thermometer. (If the temp is not rising significantly above ambient temp, the pile may be too small, too dry, too wet, or there is insufficient grass / supply of N.)
 - pH, commonly using an in-situ soil pH and moisture meter.
- It is also a good practice to record the following physical/procedural information:
 - Feedstock quantities added
 - Amount of water added
 - Physical observations, including presence of invertebrate and other organisms
- When enough materials have been added to the pile (typically after 3-4 full top-ups), and the physical appearance of the materials have started to change (become darker, with the original feed materials no longer very discernible), continue turning and wetting the pile (with topping up optional) for a few weeks before proceeding to Step 3.

- After working the pile for a few months (in Step 2), and temperature within the pile has been observed to rise significantly above ambient temperature (ideally reaching at least 40°C at times), it could be time to let the pile sit and cure without turning or adding any new materials.
- At appropriate intervals during the curing period, perform at least 2 of the following tests to check for maturity:
 - Laboratory analyses of samples to determine C:N ratio
 - Smell test (refer to Cornell CE, n.d.)
 - Germination test (refer to Cornell CE, n.d.)

- When it has been determined that the compost is matured (from Step 3), simply lift up and remove the wire mesh bin to harvest the finished compost.
- Send samples of the matured compost for full laboratory analysis of their physical and chemical properties as required.



- Choose a site that is away from public interference/scrutiny or heavy visitor traffic, shady, not windy, and near to a water supply.
- Prepare the site surface by laying concrete slabs or other suitable materials.
- Make a roughly 3' by 3' (height & diameter) bin out of wire mesh with 1/2" or smaller aperture size.
- On the setting up day:
 - Arrange for the delivery of fresh grass clippings (from grass-cutting in the park) and leaves (swept up in the park) at the approximate volumetric ratio of 1:2 (i.e. ratio by volume, e.g., 1 bag of grass for every 2 bags of leaves).
 - Progressively shred the leaves in the bin using a grass-cutter (the type that uses plastic cables to cut) or otherwise, and mix with grass until the bin is filled close to the brim with the mixed feedstock.
 - Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for handling the grass-cutter or other machine used to shred the leaves.
 - The leaves should be quite dry otherwise shredding can be difficult.
 - Remove and discard branches and twigs among the leaves before shredding, as these cannot be broken down by the grass-cutter.
 - Water the pile until the mixed materials are damp but not too wet – 1 drop of water squeezed out from a handful of the materials indicates wetness that is just right.
 - Cover the pile appropriately to keep it moist and warm within while preventing water collection that could lead to mosquito breeding.
 - A cover directly on top of the materials is essential for moisture/heat retention (e.g., using a ground sheet), with another cover over the top of the bin recommended to keep rain water out (e.g., using plywood).
 - Weigh down or tie down the covers securely. **Take care to prevent water collection above the covers after rain.**