

TEN RULES FOR GOOD COMPOST

1. The composting box should be located in a shady place, protected from wind. It should not be placed on stone, concrete, on asphalt. Compost needs earth as the base, because only in this way may rain worms and other small live organisms penetrate it.
2. Shake the base and put larger chunks of material as the bottom layer. Cover it with smaller fractions, such as leaves, kitchen waste, etc. as combine thoroughly. Spread a thin layer of cut grass on top or add it to the mixture, having let it wither a little.
3. Fragment and combine composting fractions as thoroughly as possible; the more versatile the input material, the better.
4. Add several shovels of earth from the garden or mature compost to the newly-established composting heap. Onion husks, ground coffee or tea are ideal food for worms.
5. Compost needs to be kept moist, as live organisms need humidity.
6. Compost must not be too moist, because excess moisture reduces the presence of air. Reduced oxygen concentration results in changes in conditions of degradation, thus putting a question mark on the quality of compost.
7. Waste which attracts pests (meat, bones, cooked food leftovers, etc.) should be avoided.
8. Make sure compost has sufficient air: put in some larger material; chose a composting box with enough openings which allow for air intake; never use bins which are closed on all sides.
9. Compost mixing improves compost aeration, thus accelerating the process. Mature compost is screened, and material which has not degraded is returned to the composting box.
10. Cover the composting box when it is full; alternatively, put a thick layer of leaves or similar material on top, to protect compost from precipitation, i.e. drying and loss of nitrogen.

Be an expert composter,
do a useful thing
for your community!



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HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING

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HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING

Household and garden waste (bio waste) comprises about a half of the total amount of waste generated in households. If such waste is disposed of at landfills it creates great issues, as its decomposition results in air and water pollution. This, it is important to minimize the amount of bio waste we dispose of in waste bins. The best manner to achieve this is to start composting our waste at home, that is, in our yards.

Composting is a controlled natural process of decomposition of organic substances assisted by bacteria, fungi and insects and their transformation into **compost**, stable material similar to humus.



Benefits from composting are multiple:

- Reduces waste at landfills, which contributes to environmental protection
- Saves money and reduces costs of waste management
- Assists land fertility and minimizes utilization of artificial fertilizers

WHICH TYPES OF WASTE MAY BE COMPOSTED AT HOME?

Bio waste is divided in two groups: “brown” and “green” waste. For successful composting, the two types of bio waste should be used in approximately the same amounts.

“Brown” waste, which is rich in carbon, includes dry leaves, twigs, straw, sawdust, and reed.



Green waste, which is rich in nitrogen, includes waste fruit and vegetables from the kitchen, residue from garden plants, cut grass and withered flowers.



What should not be composted?

Waste meat, bones, oil, weed seeds, bad plants, walnut leaves, and ash are not suitable for composting.

Where can I compost?

Compost can be made in an area enclosed with boards, wire fence, old tyres, and other objects which are no longer used for their primary purpose. Composting boxes, made from plastic materials, may be purchased. It is important that the composting box is airy, covered, and that composting mass may be easily stirred. Composting may be done almost everywhere: in gardens, yards, orchards, on fields, at holiday homes, etc.



Compost is mature when it is brown in colour, crumbly, and when it is not possible to recognize the materials used. It has the pleasant smell of forest cover. Compost is used as an additive to soil in gardens, lawns, pot plants, etc.

Application of compost

Mature compost improves soil structure and microbiological activity, which is why it may be used as fertilizer or soil conditioner. Compost is spread

on soil in spring or before sowing, and gently stirred in the surface layer of earth. Compost must not be dug in deeply as this would choke it. Pot plants may be added a little compost throughout the year. The amount of compost from vegetable farming depends on the sort of vegetables grown.

