

Compost

the product of decomposed organic matter

Composting turns your fruits, vegetables, and yard trimmings into a dark, crumbly, sweet smelling soil conditioner.

Benefits

- * Improves water retention *
- * Improves the structure *
- * Feeds beneficial soil microbes *
- * Improves water infiltration *
- * Minimizes water pollution *
- * Decreases landfill waste *
- * Minimizes pathogens, weeds, insects & odors *
- * Decreases water pollution *

Plants thrive in soil with high levels of organic matter.



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Compost Works For You!

Compost can also help your garden, yard, and house plants too! When compost looks like soil and smells sweet and earthy, it is ready to use.

Here are some common uses:

In the Garden

Mix some compost into newly reclaimed or poor soils.

Add compost to your garden at least once a year to replenish nutrients.



Around the Yard

Spread compost on soil as mulch.

Spread weed-free compost on turf as topdressing.

For House Plants

Sprinkle a thin layer of compost over house plant soil as fertilizer.

Make a great potting soil by mixing one part compost with two parts soil.

Methods of Composting

Backyard composting accelerates the decomposition process of organic material. There are a few ways to compost, so one should work for you!

Active Composting

Defining an area in your yard to pile your compost and turning it on a regular basis. This kills weed seeds and produces finished compost in a short amount of time.

Passive Composting

A more relaxed method in that you turn your pile only occasionally. The organic materials will not decompose as quickly, so it will take longer.

Vermicomposting

This uses red worms to break down the organic material. The worm castings produce a nutrient-rich compost. This is good when you have limited space, but the worms need the right environment.



Bins and Tumblers

If you prefer to keep your compost contained, or neater in appearance, there are numerous plans for DIY bins, as well as many types of bins and tumbler available for purchase.

Ingredients

To get a good compost, you need air, water, and the right balance of plant material: browns (carbon-rich) and greens (nitrogen-rich). Breaking up the material into small pieces helps speed up the process.

Browns

Leaves, twigs, sawdust, ashes,
straw, paper

Greens

Food waste, grass clippings, fresh
weeds, manure