

Composting 101



What does a compost pile do?

- Composting is used in landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture as a soil conditioner and fertilizer.
- Compost adds vital humus or humic acids to the area that you are wanting to garden in.



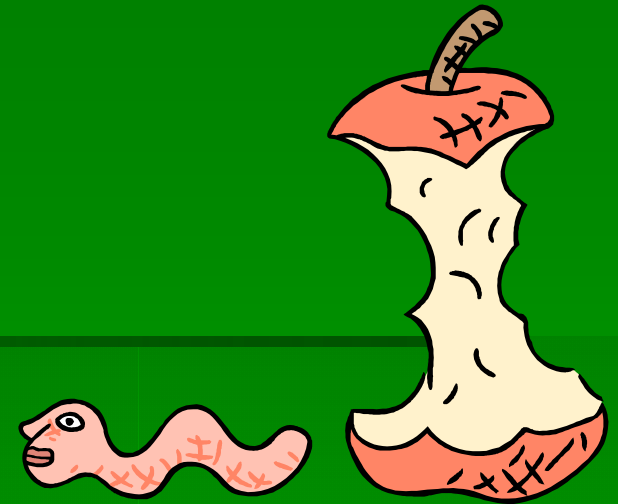
Set-up

- Select a spot near a source of water.
- Make sure this area is also handy when you need to get it to your garden.
- You can either have a small fence around your compost area or set them up into bins.



Ingredients

- Cardboard & Paper
- Tree bark, leaves, grass clippings
- Egg shells, leftover fruit and veggies
- Coffee grounds
- Seaweed
- Cow Manure (optional)
- Earth worms!



Items you should NOT put in your compost:

- Meat & Fat
- Diseased Plants (could spread disease to new plants)
- Pet Droppings
- Bones
- Milk
- Cheese
- Oils
- You shouldn't place these items in your compost because animals may try to dig them up out of your compost bin.

1st Layer

- It is easiest to do a compost pile in layers.
- For the bottom layer add all the leaves, pine needles, newspaper, manure, and sawdust.
- This layer should be a few inches thick.



2nd Layer

- Add in the green stuff!
- Put in the grass clippings, leftover veggies and fruits, egg shells, and seaweed.
- Continue this layer process until the bin is almost full.
- Add the earthworms after each layer.



Finally..

- Remember to mix each individual layer up before you place the next layer on.
- After all this is done you are ready for nature to take its course of decomposing!
- The only work that has to be done is for you to occasionally mix the entire pile up at least 2 times a week as well as sprinkle some water onto it!

DONE!

- Here is what your ending result should look like:

