



Best Ever Compost

Just Follow the Recipe!

Composting is like baking a cake. Simply add the ingredients, stir, "bake," and out comes—compost!



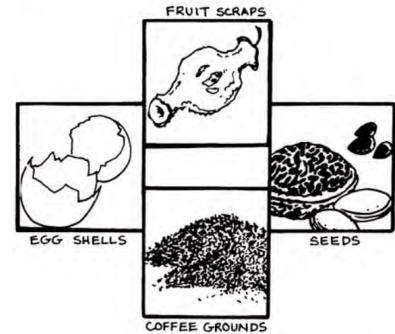
Whether you compost kitchen wastes or yard and garden wastes, there are a few basic steps to follow. Here are the necessary ingredients and general directions for composting.

Ingredients

Kitchen Compost

Add a mixture of some or all of the following ingredients:

- vegetable peels and seeds
- fruit peels and seeds
- coffee grounds
- egg shells
- nut shells
- any other vegetable or fruit scraps



(Do not add meat scraps, bones, dairy products, oils, or fat. They may attract pesty animals.)

Yard or Garden Compost

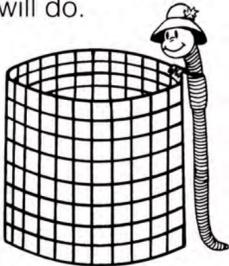
Add a mixture of some or all of the following ingredients:

- hay or straw
- grass clippings
- leaves
- ashes
- sawdust
- wood chips
- weeds and other garden waste
- manure
- shredded paper

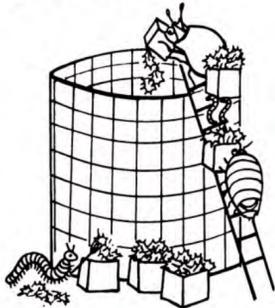


Directions

1. Choose a "pot" for baking your compost. Any type of composting bin will do.



2. Place kitchen or yard wastes into the composting bin. Chop or shred the organic materials if you want them to compost quickly.



3. Spread soil or "already done" compost over the compost pile. This layer contains the microorganisms and soil animals that do the work of making the compost. It also helps keep the surface from drying out.



4. Adjust the moisture in your compost pile. Add dry straw or sawdust to soggy materials, or add water to a pile that is too dry. The materials should be damp to the touch, but not so wet that drops come out when you squeeze.



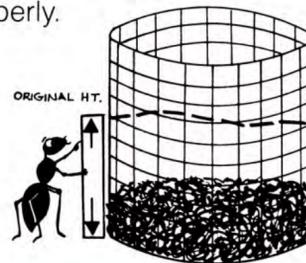
5. Allow the pile to "bake." It should heat up quickly and reach the desired temperature (90° to 140°F, or 32° to 60°C) in four to five days.



6. Stir your compost as it bakes if you want to speed up the baking time.



7. The pile will settle down from its original height. This is a good sign that the compost is baking properly.



8. If you mix or turn your compost pile every week, it should be "done," or ready to use, in one to two months. If you don't turn it, the compost should be ready in about six to twelve months.

9. Your "best ever compost" should look like dark crumbly soil with small pieces of organic material. It should have a sweet, earthy smell.



10. Feed compost to hungry plants by mixing it with the soil.



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