

COMPOST

Make in 14 – 21 days by providing perfect breeding conditions for microbes.

Ideal Mix: CARBON: 25 NITROGEN: 1

Dry Grass & Plant Material – 80: 1 Fresh grass – 25: 1 Seaweed – 25: 1
Blood & Bone – 5:1 Chicken Poo – 5:1 Horse Poo – 15: 1 Cow Poo – 18:1
Paper – 400: 1 Saw Dust - 200: 1

The greater the variety of material used, the more varied the nutrients at the end.

Green material = Nitrogen = protein for microbes.

Brown material that was once living = Carbon = Carbohydrates for microbes.

Size - 1m³ at least for pile to get hot enough & work properly.

Construction - Layer your materials like a lasagna & water the pile at each stage.

Care – Turn pile after 4 days, then every 2 days to keep H₂O & O₂ levels high.

Outside material to inside when turning pile to expose it to heat.

An ideal temperature of 65 C will allow you to hold your hand in the pile for 10 seconds. If you can't it's too hot.

Useful Plants - Yarrow, Tansy, Comfrey, Valerian, Stinging Nettle, Dock, Dandelion & Thistle all accumulate different nutrients. Scatter in pile.

Troubleshooting

Wet & Heavy – Add Oxygen by turning it and add carbon material.

Smelly – Too much nitrogen, turns to Ammonia. Turn it & add carbon.

Too Hot – Add carbon, as there is too much Nitrogen.

Living Plants – Not enough nitrogen. Add some more.

Slow – Not enough Nitrogen or moisture.

HUMUS is your final product which can be sieved and used for potting mix, placed around your garden, at the base of fruit trees, mixed with coarse builders sand and used to grow cuttings and for making compost tea.