



Kaymartco

Presents:

COMPOSTING 101

STEPS DISCUSSED



Before You Begin

- What Compost Is Not
- What to Know Before Making Compost
- What Happens When Making Compost
- What Do You Need to Make Compost?
- What Not to Compost
- When Is Compost "Ready"?
- How to Use Compost
- Types of Bins

Contact Us

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You need to select a location for your bin. You will want a level area with good water drainage, a partially shaded spot is best. Keep your bin 8" to 12" away from walls, fences, bushes, plants, and openings to your home. Before you place your bin on the ground, loosen the soil so it is sitting in dirt. Once your bin is in place, put a 4" to 6" layer of dead plants, twigs, or small branches on the bottom.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Compost is called "Gardener's Gold" because it is an invaluable resource for keeping the soil healthy. In my blog post about PH balance in soil, making organic compost is a must, because compost helps to balance the PH which allows a plant to take up nutrients it needs. If you are thinking of using compost, here are seven simple things to know before you start making compost.

GARDENER'S GOLD

WHAT COMPOST IS NOT

Compost is a wonderful recycling facility. Many food scraps need not go to the landfill anymore since you can use them in your garden as an organic soil improver. Compost can add beneficial nutrients to your soil, add air pockets, and act like a blanket for your plants.

But for all its wonderful benefits compost isn't meant to be used as a fertilizer. What compost does the best is to help improve soil structure, prevent the growth of weeds, and regulate moisture in the soil. Most importantly, compost teems with microbial life – good microorganisms that keep the soil healthy and make nutrients readily available to your plants.



WHAT COMPOST IS NOT

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE COMPOSTING

THE LOCATION

The amount of space you have in your garden, as well as, how you will keep the area spic and span.

THE MATERIALS

The kind of materials you will use in the compost and the amount of time you want to spend on your "pile".

THE USEAGE

The ways you want to use your compost and how much compost you think you need.

You need bacteria, air, moisture, and warmth (which is a byproduct of the process) to make the magic – the breakdown of compost ingredients – happen.

OVERVIEW

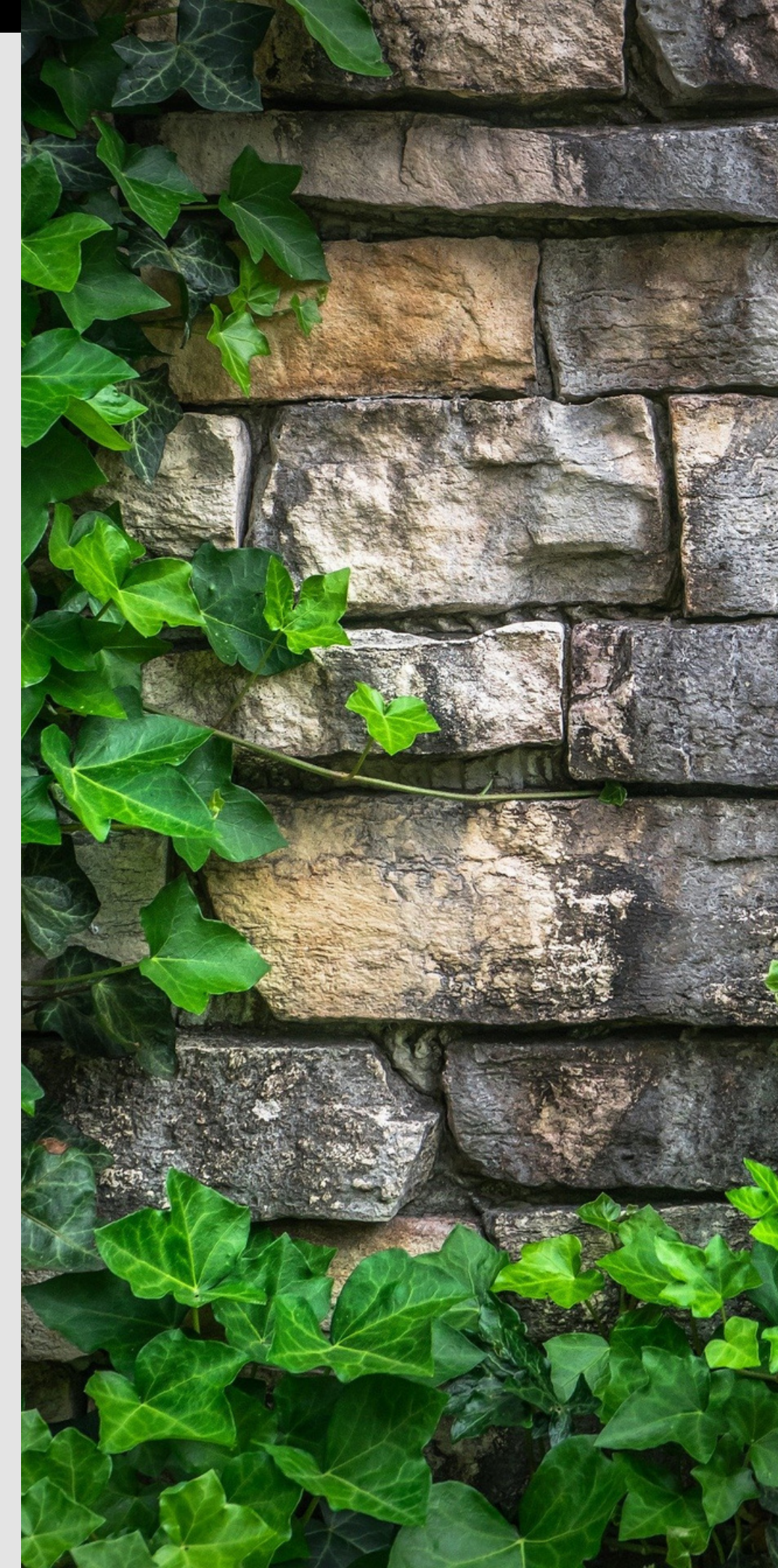
- Microbes are responsible for digesting or decomposing of compost ingredients like kitchen scraps, grass clippings, twigs, and manure (from herbivores).
- When the compost pile starts to heat up, that is when the microbes are hard at work, breaking down organic materials.
- The compost heap can get as hot as 76 degrees Celsius or 150 degrees F.
- When the compost pile cools down, it may mean two things: (1) composting is complete or (2) anaerobic organisms have taken over your compost pile....which means you need to mix the pile to keep oxygen circulating enough to encourage aerobic microbes to start working again.



□ Compost starts heating up two days after you have started your pile. Turn your compost pile every 2 or 3 days to let air circulate and speed up the decomposition of organic materials. Alternatively, you can wedge a PVC or steel pipe riddled with holes in the center of the compost so air can get through the heap.

□ Cover the compost heap to protect it from rain. Too much water ferments the decomposing materials, which can stink to high heavens if you are not careful.

□ A smaller compost heap is easier to manage, neater, and will decompose much more quickly than a larger pile. But several small piles, using all of your materials, will mean you have compost more quickly. It makes turning easier too.



What goes into

GREENS

- Grass clippings
- Poultry manure
- Young weeds and plants
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Fish meal or fish scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Alfalfa meal or green pea plants
- Tea bags and tea leaves
- Cut flowers
- Soybean meal
- Bedding from herbivorous pets

making compost?

BROWNS

- Fallen leaves
- Spoiled hay / old straw
- Wood chips
- Twigs
- Sawdust
- Cardboard
- Egg cartons
- Shredded newsprint and office paper
- Shredded tree bark
- Paper bags, paper towels, tissue

WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

ONE - Because they do not compost and are inorganic.



TWO - Carnivore feces, including baby diapers.



THREE - Meat or bone scraps; they invite rodents and stink.





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DEGREES CELCIUS IS HOT!

THE RECIPE - FAST METHOD ONLY 4 INGREDIENTS

NOTE: All of the ingredients are vital to get quick results.

1. Air - turn the pile every 3-4 days with a hay fork.
2. Water - keep the pile moist but not dripping wet.
3. 1 part greens (Chopped)
4. 3 parts browns (Chopped)

To chop up the ingredients, you can run over them with a lawn mower a couple of times, then rake onto a tarp to haul to the compost bin. First, lay down large branches to allow air to flow underneath the pile. Then add 3 parts browns and 1 part greens in lasagna layers until you have used all your ingredients. Soak the pile with water from the top down until water runs out the bottom. Cover with a tarp on rainy days. Check the temperature on day 3 and turn the pile every 3-5 days. The temp should be around 140-145 degrees constantly until everything is broken down.



THE 4 INGREDIENT RECIPE

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	SOLUTION
foul odor	excess moisture	turn pile or add dry material such as straw
	compaction	turn the pile or decrease its size
ammonia odor	too much nitrogen	add high-carbon (brown) items
low temp	pile too small	enlarge pile
	too little moisture	add water and turn
	poor aeration	turn pile
	cold weather	increase pile size or insulate pile with a layer of material such as straw
high temp	pile too large	reduce pile size or turn more frequently
	too much nitrogen	add high-carbon (brown) items
pests such as rats, raccoons and insects	presence of meat scraps or fatty food wastes	remove meat and fatty foods from pile and cover with a layer of soil or saw dust; or switch to an animal proof compost bin

HOW TO USE THE COMPOST?

Compost can be used for:

- soil conditioning
- lawn dressing
- a potting soil component
- mulching

For general soil enrichment, the ideal time for applying compost is 2-4 weeks before planting. To improve structure and fertility of poor soil, give it a thorough compost treatment in fall. Spade 6"-12" deep and mix in compost. Leave the surface rough and cloddy for the winter. When the composting process has been completed, screen and allow compost to age for an additional two weeks if you plan to use in and around established plants



HOW TO USE THE COMPOST?

Plant/Soil Application

General Soil Enrichment

New Lawns

Topdressing for existing lawns

Topdressing for vegetables, flowers, & shrubs

Ground cover for annual beds

Garden soil

Incorporation around shrubs

Potting mix

Mulch for deciduous trees, & rose beds

Mulch for vegetables, annual perennial planting beds

Compost Application Rate

1/2" to 3" into top 4" of soil

1" - 2" mixed into top 4" - 6" of soil

1/8" - 1/4" screened compost spread uniformly

1" - 2" spread uniformly

3" mixed into top 6" of soil

1" - 3" mixed into top 6" of soil

3" mixed into top 6" of soil

25% to 30% by volume

3" - 4" spread uniformly

2" to 3" spread uniformly



HOW TO USE THE COMPOST?

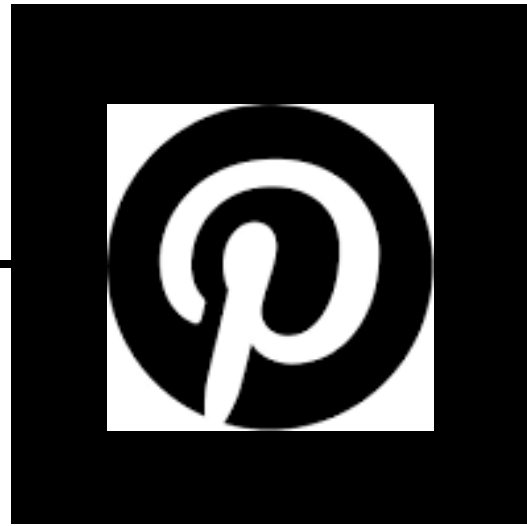
TYPES OF COMPOSTING BINS



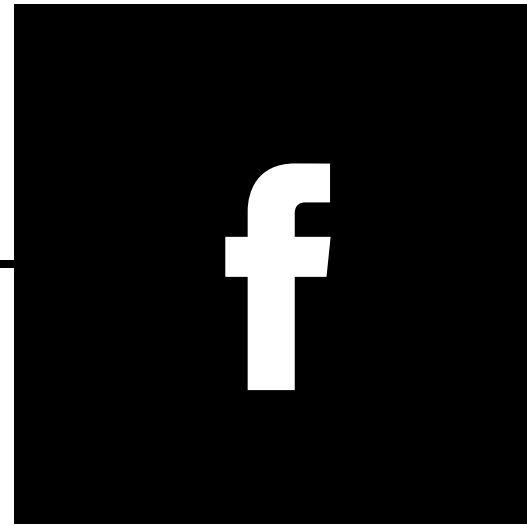


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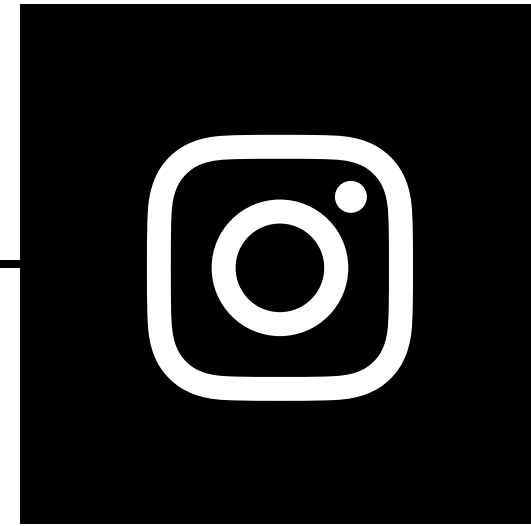
THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR GARDENING TEAM!
If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at kaymartco@gmail.com or visit our website and leave a comment. I enjoy hearing from you!



PINTEREST



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