Composting

The Dirt on Composting

Compost is decomposed organic matter that is dark and crumbly with a clean, earthy smell. It contains both major and minor plant nutrients as well as trace elements essential for healthy plant growth.

CONTAINERS

Plastic Stationary Bins
Tumbling or Rotating Bins
Wire Bins

When choosing a site for your compost bin, here are a few suggestions. Select a shady area that is protected from the prevailing wind and, if possible, close to the garden where the compost will be used. Make sure that you are near a water source to re-hydrate your pile. If the bin is accessible from all sides, it allows for ease of turning.

REQUIREMENTS

All organic matter breaks down naturally over time. This process is accomplished by beneficial bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms. How long it will take is anybody's guess. You may help speed up the process by creating the ideal conditions for decomposition. This includes the presence of carbon, nitrogen, air, and water.

C/N Ratio

When simulating the optimum conditions for compost decomposition, the standard recommendation is 3 to 1; three parts carbon to one part nitrogen. Carbon-based material is brown and nitrogen-based material is usually, but not always, green. Chopping or shredding additions to the compost pile will speed up the decomposition.

Examples of both Carbon and Nitrogen additions include:

Brown Material (Carbon)
Dried Leaves
Shredded Paper
Wood Ash & Saw Dust
Egg Shells
Chipped Brush & Wood Chips
Straw & Twigs

Green Material (Nitrogen)
Grass Clippings Free of Pesticides
Vegetable & Fruit Scraps
Disease & Insect Free Plant Material
Horse, Cow, Chicken & Rabbit Manure
Coffee Grounds with filters & Tea Bags
Used Potting Soil

Never Use in Composting
Human, Cat or Dog Manure
Diseased or Insect Infested Plant Material
Weeds with Formed Seed Heads
Perennial or Invasive Weeds
Meat or Fish
Dairy Products
Cooking Oil or Salad Dressing
Bones

The Garden Factory • 585-247-6236 • Fax 585-247-6954
2126 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624 • www.gardenfactoryny.com

the Garden FACTORY

Composting