

Feelgood Composting Instructions:

Composting is the converting of vegetable fruit and garden waste into nutritious and humus rich plant soil.

Good composting begins with finding a good spot in the garden to put the Composter; the best spot is half shade under trees on straight ground. If the sun is too strong the material that is closest to the wall of the Composter will dry too quickly.

The contents of the Composter must be in permanent contact to the soil on which the Composter is placed. This to allow all micro organisms that play an important role in the composting process to come into direct contact with the contents of the Composter and by this regulating the humidity..

The more experienced gardener will put his Composter on a thin layer of branches to maintain contact with the soil and to allow more air into the contents of the Composter.

What can be composted and what not?

Good to compost are all vegetable waste; vegetable and fruit waste, weeds (preferably without the seeds) , leaves, grass from the mowing machine, but also (mashed) egg shells, coffee with (paper) coffee filters and teabags. Also cooled off ashes of wood out of the fire place can be added.

all cooked waste is not suitable for a good composting process because this becomes mouldy and often attracts vermin. Bread with penicillin like fungus slows down the composting process, just like fat leftovers like meat, cheese, gravy, butter and frying fat. Also oil, fish and bones will not compost very well. Wet grass should first dry a little so no thick mass develops.

Ashes of coals and briquettes cannot be composted, just like droppings from cats, dogs or any other pets.

Potato peels can maintain chemical germ killers. These should also not be put into the Composter. Also skin of citrus fruit are often chemically treated and therefore should not be put into the Composter.

Good and fast composting

After some months a well compiled contents will become dark, aromatic compost that smell like forest soil.

Composting can also be done in winter, the process will only go a lot slower.

Some tips from the gardener:

- Fill the Composter layer by layer (max 4' – 6" per layer) with as many different kinds of waste.
Green waste, rich of nitrogen, taking turns with wood like material and leaves rich on carbon. Make sure there is enough "green" waste, which cannot be too wet.
A hand full of chalk or compost preparation on every new layer will speed up the composting process and enhances the quality of the compost..
- Chop or cut the waste as small as possible. Leaves that are swept together can easily be crushed by using the mowing machine.

- It is very important to ventilate the contents. The contents of the Composter should never be stamped together. It is better to toss it with the hoe or fork from time to time. The more airy the contents is, the faster the composting process goes. By doing this it is avoided that fresh waste that lies on top, smells badly or attracts vermin.
- Maintain the right humidity level. Good compost feels like a squeezed sponge. Ideally the waste to be composted feels just like that. If the contents is too dry (because of the sun!) simply sprinkle some water onto the contents.
If the contents is too dry, dry material from the garden needs to be added. Make sure you have some dry material at hand during the winter.

Speeding up

It is recommended to have the first layer of compost consists of a layer of the last prepared compost of a layer of (loose) soil.

A special compost starter is also available.

An active and good composting process causes a substantial heat (up to approx. 70°C.!) in the first few days. If the contents is not hot enough, the process will go much slower!

Good luck and happy gardening!

REGARDS,

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