

HOME COMPOSTING

Turning organic
waste into
organic fertiliser

Why Compost?

- Reduce waste going to landfill and contributing to methane emissions.
- Improve your soil structure and lock in carbon.
- Provide nutrients to plants, avoiding use of artificial fertilisers which use energy and emit greenhouse gases in production and transport.
- Use less water and increase resilience to drought.

Getting started

- Buy or build a compost bin at least 1m³ and set up on well-drained soil, in a shady spot which is convenient to access.
- Place chunky sticks at the base to help aeration and add a layer of brown (carbon rich) material, followed by a layer of green (nitrogen rich) material. Add garden soil or existing compost to help get it started.
- Continue adding green and brown material in a roughly 50:50 ratio.
- Keep it moist but not soggy (use a cover).
- Turn or stir as often as you can to add air and maintain a good temperature for decomposition (20-45°C).
- Ready to use when dark brown with a crumbly texture and smells earthy. For best results allow to mature.

Problem solving

Wet and slimy/ smelly? - Too much green material such as grass clippings – add brown.

Dry and dusty, not breaking down? - Too much brown – add green and possibly water.

Slow decomposition and cool temperature? Turn compost to add air.

Add 50:50 brown and green material

Brown

High Carbon Material

- ✓ Corrugated cardboard
- ✓ Sawdust
- ✓ Leaves & twigs
- ✓ Wood chip (untreated)
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Paper (non-shiny)
- ✓ Wood ash
- ✓ Seaweed

Green

High Nitrogen Material

- ✓ Fruit and veg scraps
- ✓ Manure
- ✓ Food waste
- ✓ Coffee grounds
- ✓ Tea leaves
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Flowers and weeds

Do not add:

- Fish/Meat
- Whole eggs
- Animal faeces
- Cooking oil
- Coal ash
- Large branches