

Composting made easy using all the tricks of the trade.

The natural cycle.

Compost is the world's oldest and most natural form of fertiliser, It can be produced and use garden.

Unlike peat, compost returns lost nutrients and trace elements to the soil, and revitalises soil other fertiliser can.

A handful of compost contains more living things than there are people on the earth: approx billion organisms.

Fertilising your own plants with self-produced compost provides satisfaction in the production of fruit and vegetables, in beautiful flowers and tasty herbs.

A good gardener therefore cuts back bushes, shrubs and flowers, knowing that all these valuable resources will not be lost but will soon be made available to the garden as fertiliser or mulch.

A pleasant side-effect is that composting also saves money, Less waste is produced for the less fertiliser needs to be purchased.

If organic materials are shredded, mixed and aerated properly, they decompose into high-quality

The better the composition; the mix of "green" nitrogenous material and "brown" plant trimmings containing carbon ; the better the fertilising qualities and therefore also the compost.

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Position the compost heap in a semi-shaded area near the house and protected from the wind with water and power supply (for shredders, for example) and a screen.

Room for at least two or, better, three containers; one for composting, one for finished compost for collecting dry plant trimmings.

Collect and sort systematically: Collect branches separately from soft plant trimmings and debris containing earth, and protect from rain (cover).

Organic, decomposable garden and household material is suitable for composting. The mix of nitrogenous material and "brown" plant trimmings containing carbon determines the fertilising quality. The shredding of twigs, branches and flowering shrubs using the VIKING garden shredders increases the surface area of the plant material and promotes decomposition through microbes and decomposing agents.

Never pile up large quantities of the same material. Always mix materials (e.g. grass cutting chippings). Shredding saves having to turn over the compost.

Place the compost containers on the ground, never on stone flags. Protect them against water-logging and drying out (cover). **Important: aerate adequately.**

The composting process takes several months, (14 days in a Sutton Tumbler), depending on year and the ambient temperature. Compost is the best form of bio fertiliser. A fungal odour indicates maturity.

Raw compost is unfinished and contains the nutrients for the plants in an unusable form. It promotes soil life very well. Raw compost is very good for mulching.

Mature compost no longer contains any worms. The nutrients are released and can be absorbed by plants. However, plants should not be planted in finished compost alone ; the compost must be mixed with soil.