

Small-scale compost making

1) Which materials can be used and at which ratio?



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| Green Material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% • Grass • Fresh green leaves • Waste fruit | Brown Material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% • Straw • Branches • Woodchips | Manure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% • Cow • Chicken • Horse | Conditioner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% • Clay • Old compost |
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3) When is the compost finished? How to apply it?



- The compost is finished when
 - the core temperature is ambient
 - it has a granular structure and „soil“ odor
 - the „cress-test“ is positive
 - test-plant grows/no weeds
 - 1 drop of water can be squeezed out of a handful of compost
- The compost should be incorporated into the soil or mixed into mulch layer

2) How to build a compost pile?

- Start with a layer of the lightest/roughest material like straw
- Second layer is green fresh material followed by manure
- Always put wettest/heaviest material on top
- Repeat this sequence until a height of 1.25-1.5 meter is reached
- The ground area of the pile should be 2-3 meter width and at least 4 meter length
- Add water in between the layers (about 50 litres of water per 1m³ of input material)
- Compact the pile through „compost dance“
- When finished cover the pile with straw, banana or palm leaves or cotton sheets !!dont use plastic to cover the pile!!!
- Turn the pile after the core temperature has been 60-70°C for 3 days. Turn again after 3 and 6 weeks

