

Compost

Fact Sheet 4

Composting methods

Compost pile

This is an easy way to make compost.

Put your garden waste and vegetable scraps into a pile. Make sure you put in green and brown material. Turn it twice a week for twelve weeks.

Compost bins

There are many different types of compost bins to buy or you can make your own. Put brown and green material into the bin in layers. Turn the compost with a garden fork every two weeks. Leave holes in the side of the bin so air can get in and water can get out.



Compost Windrows

This is good if you want to make a lot of compost.

Windrows are very big piles that are 2 metres high, 3 metres wide and any length.

Windrows need to be turned once a week or more using a tractor. This is to make sure all the material gets hot inside the windrow. The compost needs to get hot to kill seeds and bad bacteria before you put it on your land.

Compost

Composting systems

Choose a composting system that is good for your own farm.

Large system (12 to 100 tonnes)

Makes a lot of compost
Saves time
Saves space
Self-contained
Keeps air flow
You can put in all your waste material
Machines do the work

Medium system (1 to 12 tonnes)

On-site system
Self-contained
Easy-to-use
You don't have to do much
Temperature controlled

Small system (400 litres)

Easy to store
Easy-to-use
Low energy needs
Low cost

When to use your compost

Pre-planting phase

Compost is very good for the soil. Four to 5 weeks before you plant add 5 to 10 centimetres of compost and mix into your topsoil. The compost will slowly give nutrients to your plants when they start to grow.

During planting

When you are planting add some compost to the seedling holes. Compost is soft and will help the small plant roots to grow deep into the soil.

Compost fertiliser

Include poultry manure in your green material when you compost to make a fertiliser. Dig the compost fertiliser into the soil or spread it around your crop when it is growing.

After harvesting

After you harvest use the leftover crop material to make more compost. You will then have compost for your next crop.

For more information contact

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