

WHAT IS COMPOSTING

Composting is the breaking down of organic matter into a nutrient rich humus. The humus can be spread around plants to improve the soil quality



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COMPOSTING

WHY SHOULD WE COMPOST?

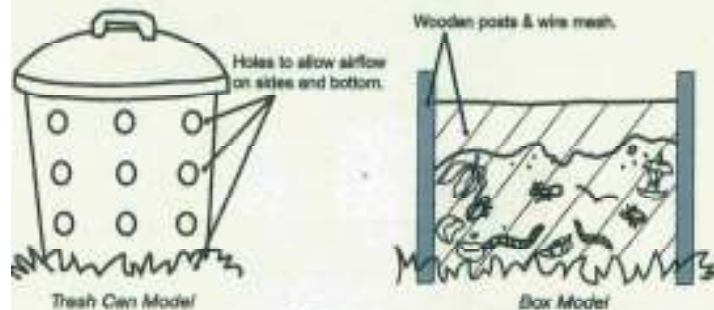
Composting is good for the environment. It reduces rubbish and helps slow the filling of landfills. The finished product, humus is an excellent all natural fertilizer which we can use for our plants.

WHAT CAN WE COMPOST?

Anything organic can be composted: tea leaves, table scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, ground bones, grass clippings, leaves, vegetables peels and even straw hats, bags and mats!

WHERE CAN WE COMPOST?

Ideally, the heap should be on the soil, but you can compost almost anywhere. The trash-can model can be used for smaller areas, while the larger box model can be used for bungalow and community composting efforts.



FACT

NEARLY 40% OF OUR RUBBISH IS GARDEN AND OTHER ORGANIC WASTE. MAKE GOOD USE OF IT... COMPOST!!

HOW DO WE COMPOST?

1 Set up a box (1meter X 1meter) using wood posts, wire mesh and plywood, or use a large trash can with holes punched through to allow for air flow. The box should be set about 10cm into dug-up soil.

2 Layering the waste is good, but not necessary. However, after food scraps are put into the heap, they should be covered with leaves or grass clippings to prevent odor.


3 The heap should be kept moist, but NOT SOGGY. A lid may be helpful in the tropics to keep out the excess rain.


4 Turn the compost heap at least once every 2-3 weeks; or more frequently to speed up decomposition.


5 It will take 1-3 months for the food and other material to break down and form the nutrient rich humus.


6 The humus can be continuously removed from the bottom and new vegetable waste added to the top. Just be sure to remove the humus before you turn the heap, when all the humus has settled at the bottom!


FURTHER TIPS...


 It is best to tear up vegetables into small pieces to hasten decomposition.

 Do NOT add lots of citric fruit scraps such as orange and lime peels to the heap. Too much will make the compost too acidic, harming your plants.

 Do NOT add cat or dog faeces to the heap. It may contain harmful bacteria which can survive the composting process. Other types of manure, such as cow manure, are good.

 Avoid oily foods and meats of all types for compost heaps. Smaller heaps cannot mask the smell of such foods and therefore attract flies and other pests.

 If done correctly (kept moist and turned occasionally), the heap should smell like wet leaves. It should NEVER smell bad. If the heap does smell foul, turn it more often and make sure it is not too wet.

 The humus can be added to the top soil or dug into the soil of your potted plants, garden, grass, young trees and so on!

