

Enjoy... it's all natural!

Organic Landscaping



Keys to Successful Composting

Temperature

For best results, temperatures within the entire compost pile must stay between 130-160°F for approximately two weeks. Maintaining this temperature range is critical; warm enough to kill off weed seeds and pathogens yet still allowing for cultivation of beneficial organisms.

Aeration

During the two weeks when temperatures of at least 130°F are required, turn the pile 2-3 times per week to allow air to infiltrate. This step is essential for maintaining proper temperatures and encouraging the development of beneficial soil organisms to breakdown organic material.

Moisture

Too much or too little moisture will negatively impact the quality of the compost. A moisture rate of 35-45% is optimum. To determine this, grab a handful of compost from the center of the pile and squeeze it. The material should be moist to the touch but not drip. Too dry: add water and mix thoroughly. Too wet: turn more frequently and cover to protect from rain.

Two Basic Compost Recipes



Grasses, Annuals, Perennials, and Vegetables

Bacterial Mix - Feedstock Ingredients

45% Bacterial: hay, weeds, coffee grounds, herbaceous material

30% Fungal: dry leaves, sawdust, wood chips, shredded newspaper

25% Nitrogen: grass clippings, vegetable waste, legumes, manure

Trees and Shrubs

Fungal Mix - Feedstock Ingredients

45% Fungal: dry leaves, sawdust, wood chips, shredded newspaper

30% Bacterial: hay, weeds, coffee grounds, herbaceous material

25% Nitrogen: grass clippings, vegetable waste, legumes, manure

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