COM-POSTER

Getting Started

With wood pallets, cement blocks or galvanized wire, create a round or square bin that fits your landscape, Impredients budget and local ordinances. Three to five feet across allows Kitchen scraps, (no proper air meat or dairy) shouldflow.

Grass clippings, and weeds Leaves and newspaper

be buried within the pile. weathe brings new green matter to join the brown of the Fall.

Clean the yard and

rebuild the pile.

The pile should

get hot and shrink

In 1931, Sir Albert Howard published, "The Waste Products of Agriculture." His composting method spread rapidly around the world. Air flow through Composting has

the pile is vital become a big part for rapid, odorless decomposition. Earthworms, sowbugs

millipedes Bacteria

waste. Add water. Success of the pile depends upon

adequate moisture.

Apply 1" of compost to 3" of garden soil or 1/4" annually to top dress your lawn or

around shrubs, trees as a mulch.

and transplants

again with mowed, shredded leaves and the last of the grass

Harvest the finished compost at the bottom of the pile in early fall; screen to remove undigested mate-rial (return that material to the new pile). Store the compost or apply

grass

matter throughout

the summer. Water

as necessary to

maintain moisture.

Add food scraps if

brown

available

laws permit

By mixing greens and browns, adding moisture and mass. ideal conditions are created for bacteria and fungi. The pile heats and

rapid decomposition follows. Mites and beetles eat the bacteria; earth-

worms, sowbugs and millipedes complete the transformation back to humus.

The History

of organic gardening, lawn care and an

important way to reduce



First level predators feed on the single-cell bacteria. Some are also microscopic, others are just visible to the naked eye.

Larger predators are easily visible and much less numerous. They're at the top of the compost pile food chain.



enefits of Composting

Bacteria work at different temperatures to

break down the organic matter to produce

Thermophiles take over as the pile gets

hotter (113-170 degrees F.) They are the workhorses, breaking down protein, fats

and complex carbohydrates and killing

between 130 and 150 degrees.

why we refrigerate food.

Bacteria do the major work.

Warm wet conditions with

a mixture of browns and

greens set the stage for

the populations explode to

a bacteria banquet, as

astronomical numbers.

weed seeds. Fastest decomposition occurs

Mesophilic bacteria grow between 68 and

Psychrophilic bacteria live at temperatures

from 14 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit. Decom-

position slows at low temperatures. That's

113 degrees. At these temperatures the

pile takes a long time to decompose.

humus, or compost.

Adds vigor to your lawn and garden.

Retains moisture, resists drought.

Helps loosen heavy clay soils.

Increases living organisms in the soil.

Adds nutrients and conditions the soil.

Keeps methane-producing materials out of landfills. Keeps methane-producing organic

Working with

Prepare the pile fo

colder weather by

covering to prevent

and freezing of the contents. Large piles

stay

through the winter.

moisture

active

excessive

Nature recycles all living things, slowly building and replenishing soil. Composting harnesses Nature's recycling crew to make rich humus from organic waste, concentrating and speeding this natural process.