

How to make good quality compost

Well prepared compost builds the soil and provides nutrients to support good plant growth

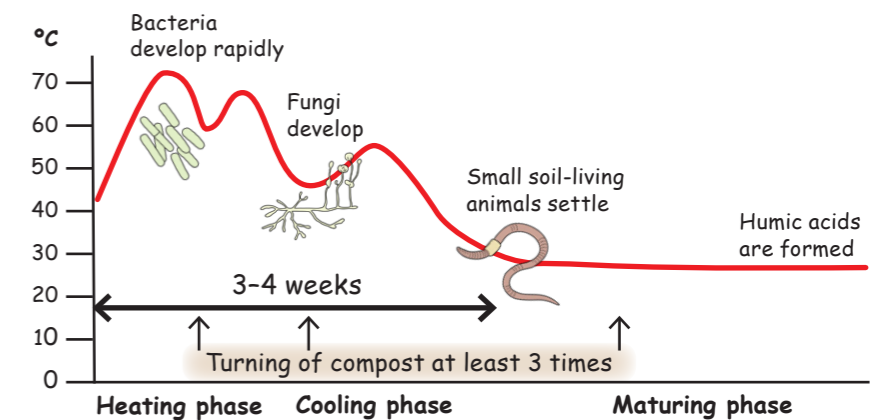
In dry climate, produce compost in pits 0.5 m deep

Choose a shady place close to a water source

Make a heap about 1.2 m high

Make a heap about 2 m wide and 4 m long

Temperature changes during composting



The heat released during decomposition helps to kill weeds, plant diseases and pests.

How to check moisture during composting



Press a sample to assess the moisture level



Material falls apart = too dry



Material smears or drips = too wet



Material keeps its form without dripping = ideal

Five steps to produce a good compost

1 Collect materials from non-contaminated sources



- Cover the piled manure and the green materials before use

2 Mix and water the materials



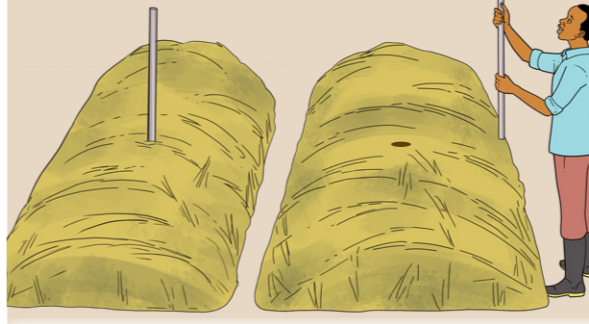
- Mix 1 part comprising fresh plant materials and manure, to 2 parts of medium rough dry materials

3 Pile the mixed materials



- Make a heap of the recommended size and cover it with straw, leaves etc. (plastic is not recommended)

4 Check the temperature after 2 to 3 days



- Cool stick = heap too dry or lacks enough green material or manure
- Hot stick = materials decomposing well

5 Turn the heap at least 3 times



- Turn the heap after about 10, 20 and 40 days at least
- Remove the straw before turning
- Water the compost, if dry
- Cover the heap again