

Using finished compost

Compost is ready to use when it is dark and crumbly with most of the original identity of the materials lost. You can screen the finished compost to remove coarse or incompletely decomposed materials. Return these to the compost pile.

"Lazy compost"

Simply pile-up organic matter in a remote area of your garden, you will get compost "some time"



Questions & answers

How long will it take?

Anywhere from two months to two years! It all depends on the efforts you put into it. You can accelerate the process by keeping ideal conditions: humidity, aeration, shredding and a good balance of "greens" and "browns".

Can I compost in winter?

Yes! Continue to add materials throughout the winter to your compost box. The decomposition process will stop, but the pile will become active again in spring. Turn it over to help the process.

Will it smell?

A balanced compost pile that is well aerated should not have an unpleasant odor. If it does, it may be that you added too much green materials or that the pile is too wet or compacted. Turn the pile, let it dry out or add "brown" materials such as leaves.

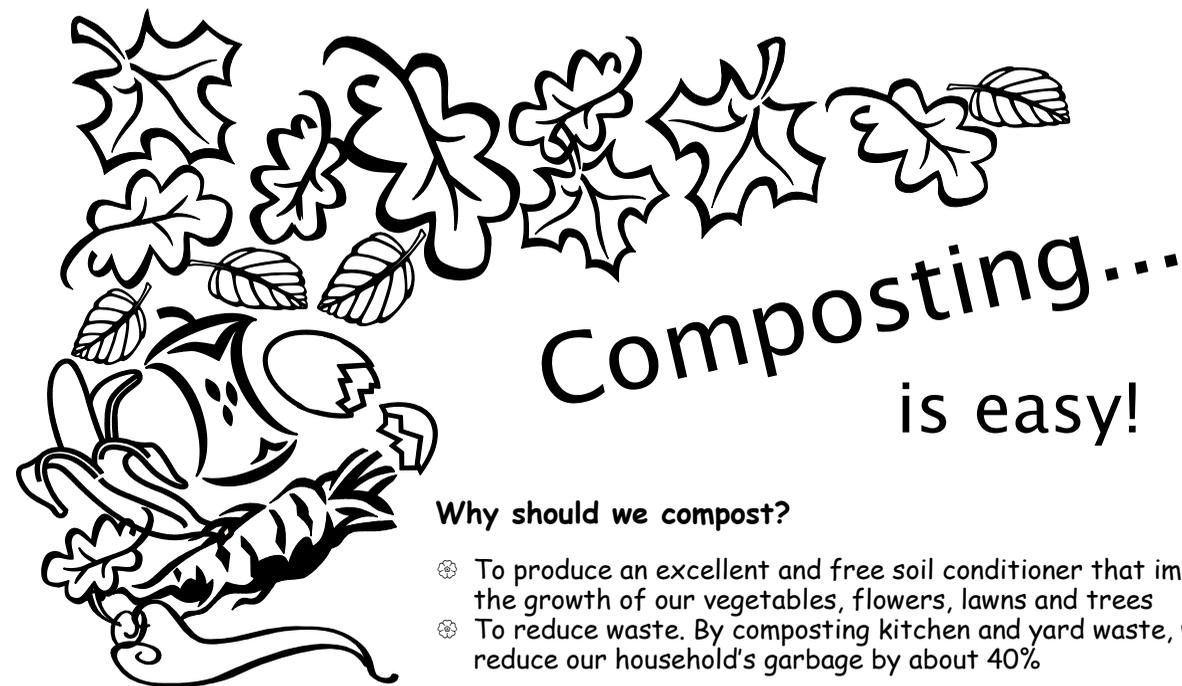
What is worm composting?

Worm composting is a method that uses red worms to eat your kitchen scraps. It can be done year-round and inside the house. If you are tired of making trips to the backyard in the snow, this is a method to consider. Red wigglers are nice for fishing too!

Documentation at Mansonville's Legion Memorial Library

The Complete Compost Gardening Guide *Barbara Pleasant & Deborah Martin*
Let it Rot!: The Gardener's Guide to Composting *Stu Campbell*
Worms Eat My Garbage *Mary Appelhof*
Tout sur le compost *Lili Michaud*
Le compostage *Eric Ebeling*
Le compostage domestique *Edith Smeesters*

Master compostors of Potton Township
450-292-3313 ext. 224



Why should we compost?

- ⊗ To produce an excellent and free soil conditioner that improves the growth of our vegetables, flowers, lawns and trees
- ⊗ To reduce waste. By composting kitchen and yard waste, we can reduce our household's garbage by about 40%

What is compost?

Compost is a dark earthy material that is the result of the controlled decomposition of organic matter by billions of microorganisms

What can we compost?

Do add:

Nitrogen rich "green" materials:

- ⊗ Plants remains
- ⊗ Fruits and vegetables scraps
- ⊗ Tea bags, coffee grounds
- ⊗ Egg shells
- ⊗ Cut grass (in small amounts)

Carbon rich "brown" materials:

- ⊗ Dead leaves
- ⊗ Dry hay and straw
- ⊗ Shredded newspapers
- ⊗ Chipped branches
- ⊗ Sawdust (in small amounts)
- ⊗ Bread, pasta, cereals

Do not add:

- × Meat, bones, fish scraps
- × Fat, oil, salad dressing, dairy products
- × Dog and cat litter
- × Diseased or infested plants
- × Weeds with mature seeds
- × Pernicious weeds such as crab grass
- × Toxic waste (pesticides, paint)
- × Ashes, charcoal

