

Compost

Compost is the result of organic material that has been broken down in a controlled environment eg a Compost Bin. Composting your food scraps, grass and garden clippings (organics) can provide you with an excellent source of free garden food and soil improver. Compost can be made at home or is readily available commercially.

Aged animal manures and vermicompost (worm castings) are rich in nutrients and are excellent for use in the home vegetable garden. Compost does not have to be dug into the soil. Unless the soil needs to be improved, the compost can be laid on top. Layers of garden mulch will also break down over time to add nutrients to the soil.

Composting organics is one of the best things you can do in your garden. As well as creating a great fertiliser, it reduces greenhouse gases, saves water and reduces waste.

Add to your compost

- Fruit and vegie scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Herbs - particularly Tansy, Comfrey and Chamomile
- Autumn leaves
- Egg shells - crushed
- Pizza containers
- Egg cartons
- Aged animal manure
- Hair clippings
- Onion-outer skin
- Finely chopped citrus peel
- Grass clippings (thin layers 3-4cm)
- Chopped prunings
- Weeds - but not weed seed or weeds with bulbs attached
- Shredded newspapers



BUILDING A LAYERED COMPOST HEAP

1. Build your compost in thin layers (3-10cm).
2. Alternate high nitrogen (food scraps, manure, grass clippings, soft prunings) and low nitrogen (dry leaves, coarse prunings) layers.

Three buckets low nitrogen to one bucket high nitrogen.

3. Use a diversity of materials.



Keep out of your compost

- Meat
- Cat and Dog droppings
- Large amounts of citrus peel
- Onion
- Bleached or glossy office paper
- Dairy Products
- Diseased plants