

RECIPE

Biologically Active Compost



Ready in **3 Months**

Serves **billions**

Ingredients

- Fungal “Brown” Foods (ex. Dry brown leaves, shredded cardboard, shredded newspaper, straw, woodchips)
- Bacterial “Green” Foods (ex. dried green leaves, dried + chipped hedge trimmings)
- Party Foods (ex. Nitrogen-fixing plants like clover, peas, alfalfa; or food waste, manure)
- Air and Water
- 3-4ft tall wire mesh that will close to a circle with diameter at least 3ft
- Removable clamps/bungees to secure wire mesh, canvas tarp
- Compost Thermometer

Preparation

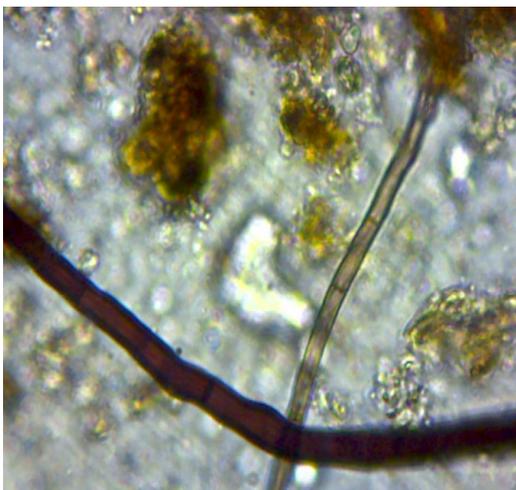
1. Night before: Portion out your materials so that the pile will be 60% brown foods, 30% green foods, and 10% party foods
 - Wet-up the dry ingredients by soaking in water overnight
2. Day of: Make a tall cylinder out of your wire mesh and secure it with clamps
3. Toss in the foods - layers are ok, or you can mix everything together on a tarp first
4. Spray to ensure the pile has enough water but do not over-water (don't want to see water pooling out the bottom)
5. Cover with a canvas tarp or damp cardboard
6. 2 days later: take 3 temperature readings from the center of the pile and check

moisture by squeezing a handful of material very tightly - you should barely see 1 or 2 drops between your fingers)

7. If pile is near 160 degrees, turn it:
 - Unclamp mesh, peel it away, and set up next door
 - Pull off top layer and set aside
 - Put the hot middle of the pile into the bottom of the new pile (wet-up if necessary)
 - Put the top material into the center
 - Put the sides of the old pile on top of the new pile
8. Continue to check temperatures after another couple days to a week - wait for temperature to reach close to 160 degrees and **then turn again** following the same procedure
9. Turn a third and final time at the 160 degree mark so that all of the material has had a turn inside the hottest middle of the pile
10. Let the pile sit for a month to 6 months after your final turn to maximize the beneficial microbe populations, then apply freely!

Tips

- On your next trip to a healthy forest, **respectfully** collect a couple small samples of soil around old healthy trees - this material can be used to inoculate your woodchips or other brown foods with highly beneficial fungal hyphae before use in the compost pile
- Rain water is great for wetting up materials!
- Make **aerated tea** with small amounts of your compost to spread it further
- Learn to test your compost with a microscope, or find someone who can, to make sure that it is teeming with life!



←These brown strands are "good guy" fungi from a very active compost pile - this recipe will help bring them to your pile too!

Produced by Renaissance Soil

Email: Revivesoil@gmail.com with comments or questions