

Small-scale compost making

1) Which materials can be used and at which ratio?



Green Material:

- 30%
- Grass
- Fresh green leaves
- Waste fruit

Brown Material:

- 40%
- Straw
- Branches
- Woodchips

Manure:

- 20%
- Cow
- Chicken
- Horse

Conditioner:

- 10%
- Clay
- Old compost

3) When is the compost finished? How to apply it?



- The compost is finished when
 - the core temperature is ambient
 - it has a granular structure and „soil“ odor
 - the „cress-test“ is positive
 - test-plant grows/no weeds
 - 1 drop of water can be squeezed out of a handful of compost
- The compost should be incorporated into the soil or mixed into mulch layer

2) How to build a compost pile?

- Start with a layer of the lightest/roughest material like straw
- Second layer is green fresh material followed by manure
- Always put wettest/heaviest material on top
- Repeat this sequence until a height of 1.25-1.5 meter is reached
- The ground area of the pile should be 2-3 meter width and at least 4 meter length
- Add water in between the layers (about 50 litres of water per 1m³ of input material)
- Compact the pile through „compost dance“
- When finished cover the pile with straw, banana or palm leaves or cotton sheets !!don't use plastic to cover the pile!!!
- Turn the pile after the core temperature has been 60-70°C for 3 days. Turn again after 3 and 6 weeks

