

Hot compost recipe

This is the recipe we are using at TNG for hot compost.

It was taken from From Gardening Australia Website:

SERIES 28 - Episode 10

Tino demonstrates how to make a hot compost to convert garden waste into gold!

Hot composting requires large amounts of material, at least a cubic metre. Combined in the right ratios, a lot more brown than green, this material will decompose quickly. The biological processes generate heat, killing weed seeds and pathogens. It is the best way to deal with an end of season clean-up! You can create compost in a coral or bay, but Tino is building this pile directly onto a vacant garden bed.

You'll need

Nitrogen (Green) This is contained in fresh, green vegetation, vegies scraps and manure. Break up large pieces, like corn stalks or brassica stems, with a hammer. If you don't have a lot of green material, you can supplement with blood and bone, pelletised chicken manure and coffee grounds!

Carbon (Brown) These materials make up the bulk of the compost, things like autumn leaves and straw. The brown materials also help to keep the pile aerated.

Water and oxygen These elements are key to almost every living thing and compost is all about life! The organisms that decompose the organic matter need a good supply of both to do the job.

Method

1. Find an area of bare earth at least 1m²
2. Install some vertical supports (Tino used 3 wooden stakes)
3. Start with a layer of brown material - about 200 - 300mm thick. (Tino used straw)
4. Add a thinner layer of brown material (around 50mm)
5. Sprinkle with pelletised chicken manure and coffee grounds
6. Water the layer well and repeat until you run out of material. The pile should be at least 1m high.
7. The compost should start 'cooking' in about one hour and be ready to use in 6 - weeks.

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