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Cool & Easy Compost Recipe

Cool and Easy Composting is adding materials gradually to a bin or pile and allowing them to compost slowly with little maintenance. With this “continuous feed” approach, compost is ready in six months to two years. This practice does not destroy weed seeds, runners, or plant diseases.

Ingredients:

Mixed yard trimmings as available, including grass clippings, flowers and stalks, leaves, weeds without seeds or spreading roots, twigs, and small branches

Vegetable and fruit scraps and coffee grounds

Rainwater and additional water, as needed

Tools:

Pitchfork

Square-point shovel or machete

Water hose with spray head

Chipper-shredder (if composting woody material)

Compost bin (optional)

Tarp, burlap, or black plastic cover (optional)

Directions:

1. Set compost bin or pile where water does not puddle when it rains, preferably in a shaded spot.
2. Put yard trimmings in bin or pile as they are collected.
3. Chop or shred woody trimmings.
4. When adding grass clippings and green garden wastes to the compost pile, mix them into the leaves and other yard materials already in the pile.
5. Bury kitchen scraps under 10 inches of yard trimmings or finished compost.
6. Moisten dry materials as they are added.
7. Optional: Cover top of compost with tarp or sheet plastic to keep it moist, but not soggy.
8. When material at the bottom looks like dark, rich soil, you have compost. When convenient, move the non decomposed materials into a new pile or bin, and harvest and use the compost.