

How to take care of compost

After about 2 weeks, the compost pile will become hot inside (60~70°C). Mix the compost well and if it is dry, water the pile to dampen it.

Make sure that the compost is exposed to fresh air by turning the material over from the top to the bottom every two weeks.

The smell of compost is strong at this time.



Well-matured compost: when is it ready for use?

- 1 Colour: Colour of compost will turn to dark brown or black.
- 2 Temperature: Temperature inside the compost will be about the same as outside temperature.
- 3 Texture: Compost will be soft and easy to spread.
- 4 Smell: Smell of compost will be better.
- 5 Volume: the height of pile will decrease.

Colour



mixed colour

dark brown to black

Texture



soft

How to apply compost

Before planting seeds or seedlings, spread well-matured compost on field. Then plough the soil.

For 10 hectares of land, 1-2 tons of compost -about 1 to 2 piles of the compost made- will be sufficient.

If you are not using chemical fertilizer, 3-4 tons of well-matured compost are needed.



Now you can make compost to fertilize your farm

The method of making compost explained here is a basic one.

Adaptations can be made to suit the resources you have or the characteristics of your local area. You can find out more from the agricultural expert in your village.

A Note about compost and chemical fertilizer:

Applying compost will minimize the use of chemical fertilizer. Moreover, compost decreases negative effects of chemical fertilizer.



Now you can also start making compost!

Important points about compost

- 1 It's best to make compost under shed to keep away from rain.
- 2 Preserve well-matured compost by covering it with sheet of plastic.
- 3 Application of immature compost can result in damage to crops.

GUIDE FOR UTILIZATION:

Objectives:

To enable learners to:

- (1) Understand the role of soil in growing crops.
- (2) Know about side-effects of using chemical fertilizer.
- (3) Understand importance and advantages of compost.
- (4) Learn how to make compost and be able to use it in the field.

Target Groups: Self-learning level neo-literates

Application:

1. Instructor discusses informally with learners about the problems they have in agriculture.
2. Instructor shows this booklet to learners and asks them to read it thoroughly.
The instructor may first read the captions, then the content.
3. Difficult terms in the content need to be explained.
4. Generate discussions among learners by posing some questions.
5. Other related materials (if any) should also be utilized for further understanding.

HAPPY LIFE WITH COMPOST



Issues for discussion ▪ ▪ ▪

- (1) How are your crops growing?
- (2) Have you faced similar problems raised in this booklet?
- (3) What kind of soil is suitable for farming?
- (4) What do you do with waste materials such as farm residues, animal manures, and kitchen waste materials.
- (5) Plan how to make compost.
- (6) Think about other methods to improve farming.

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Illustrated by Albert Gamos (Philippines)

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6 Fukuromachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8484 Japan
e-mail: literacy@accu.or.jp URL: <http://www.accu.or.jp/litdbase>

Planned and produced under the Asian/Pacific Joint Production Programme of Materials for Neo-Literates in Rural Areas (AJP) in co-operation with UNESCO Bangkok