

Recipe for Compost Heaps (Bins)

1. Place a mat of chopped brush or coarse material on the soil in the bottom of the heap (3-4 Inches)
2. Add 6 – 8 inches of leaves, grass, etc. on the mat of base material
3. (Optional) Sprinkle a little soil on the pile of composting material. This adds microorganisms to the mixture
4. (Optional) Add a handful of commercial fertilizer to the pile to add some NITROGEN, which aids microbial growth. Manure or a little ammonia can also work. Water needs to be used with these aids to dilute and to distribute the nitrogen through the decomposing materials
5. Continue to add materials to the heap in 6-8 inches layers until full. Mixing “(green) – high Nitrogen and (brown) – high Carbon” layers makes for good composting.
6. The heap needs to be kept moist (but not soaked). One way to make rainwater more effective is to make a depression in the center of the top of the pile (forms a “pool” to make water drain through center of heap). *If nature fails to add water to the pile, make sure you aid composting by adding some water.
7. To speed composting, turn materials in the pile (or switch to a second bin) every 4 – 6 weeks. This allows more aerobic (oxygen using) microbes to work on the material. This also reduce odor if any occurs. (It will always smell musty).
8. When material turns dark brown and gets crumbly it is ready to use. Sifting through a coarse screen will help separate any large particles.
9. Mix in with soil or use as a mulch or ground cover.

(ALL OF THIS CAN TAKE FROM 3 MONTHS TO A YEAR DEPENDING UPON CONDITIONS THE COMPOSTING IS TAKING PLACE)