5 1/2 Tips

to get better compost for your garden

GARANTIA®

Making the most of your garden

1.
Location is key!

Making sure you locate your compost bin in the right location is important to produce compost that is of full of nutrients, perfect for your garden. There are two keys aspects to consider when it comes to setting up your compost bin.


Our Thermo Wood composter suits any garden!

Firstly, you want to position the composter in a shady area of your garden or allotment as you want to keep the temperature within the composter as consistent as possible and avoid extreme temperatures. This is because the micro-organisms that help to convert the waste into compost such as; bacteria and fungi, work best in constant conditions.


Site your composter in a shady area

Secondly, you want to put the compost bin on a base that drains well and gives access to soil organisms such as; worms and ants. If you are planning to place the compost bin on a hard surface in your garden, then add some soil to the composter.

2.

Regularly turn your pile

Turning your compost regularly ensures that the compost bin gets aerated. This is important because the micro-organisms that we mentioned before need oxygen to function and help with the decomposition of the organic matter that you fill your compost bin with.


Turn your compost regularly to let oxygen in!

If you don't turn your compost, then these micro-organisms won't get the oxygen that they need to survive and will eventually die off, which will slow down the rate of decomposition in your compost bin. You want to turn your compost every 3-7 days, using either a garden fork or a spade. Depending on how mature the compost is, the less mature it is, you should turn more frequently and the more mature it is, you should turn less often.


The oxygen encourages the micro-organisms

3. Encourage soil organisms

As we mentioned in the first tip you want to place your compost bin on a base that allows soil organisms such as ants and worms to make their way into the compost bin and help with the decomposition of the organic material in the composter.


Make sure your base encourages ants & worms

It is important to encourage worms into your compost bin for two reasons. Firstly, as they tunnel their way through the matter it loosens the material which helps any trapped water drain from the compost bin and helps to open pockets of oxygen for the microorganisms mentioned before. Secondly, worms eat the organic matter in the compost bin and excrete castings, which are an organic form of fertiliser.


Fungi improves phosphorous & potassium in compost

Despite what many people might think, having ants in your compost bin is actually a good thing. As ants bring fungi into the compost bin that help with the composting process and can make the compost rich in phosphorus and potassium. However, you want to make sure you turn the compost pile regularly to break up ant colonies.

4.
Ensure your compost bin has a balanced diet


Balance nitrogen-rich & carbon-rich materials.

Just like us humans your compost bin needs a balanced diet. But in this instance, we are not talking about proteins, carbs and vegetables. The key to having high quality compost for your garden is to make sure your compost bin has a good balance of nitrogen-rich and carbon-rich materials.


Nitrogen-rich green materials provide protein.

Again, just like us humans, your compost bin needs it's greens and no we are not talking about Kale fortunately. Green materials are nitrogen-rich and these greens provide protein to the microorganisms that break down the organic matter in your compost bin. These materials are; kitchen scraps, grass trimmings and leafy trimmings.

The carbon-rich materials you can consider as carbs for the microorganisms, as they provide them with energy whilst they break down the organic matter. These are considered to be brown materials such as; dry leaves, woody plant trimmings, straw and even paper.

5.
What not to feed your compost bin!

Now that you know what you should put in your compost bin, it's important to know what you should never put in your composter as this could not only ruin you compost pile but also ruin your garden or allotment, which you have worked incredibly hard on.


Never put bindweed in your composter

Firstly, you should never add bindweed to your compost bin. These nasty degenerates are aggressively self-seeding and the seeds can be viable for up to 20-30 years! This means that bindweed seeds can be waiting in your compost ready to ambush your garden.


Avoid putting diseased plants in your composter

You should also never add diseased plants to your compost pile. As the disease can spread to your compost pile and if you use that compost on your garden you will then in turn spread the disease to your lovely garden.

5½.

What your compost should be like.

It can take anywhere from 6 months to 2 years for compost to reach maturity and be ready for you to use on your garden. To tell when it is ready, your compost should be dark brown, with a soil-like texture.



Let your compost mature before you use it.



It should be dark brown and soil like when ready.