

Gardening Department

Making Your Own Compost

Compost is the natural process in which microorganisms convert organic material such as manure, leaves, grass and food waste into a soil-like material called compost. With compost, the nutrients found in the organic matter are released slowly. Compost is so nutrient rich, it often meets the needs of a plant for one year. Compost is an excellent substance to build “good” soil.

Compost improves the structure of all garden soils, and increases drainage of clay soils. Regardless of where you garden or what you grow, compost will make your plants healthier, more vigorous, and increase their flowering and fruiting like nothing else. Simply put, composting is the best possible thing you can do for your garden.



Compost is not only good for your garden, but good for the environment. By composting our organic waste, we can save it from being wasted in landfills. There are many types of composters that can be purchased at Gasper (check online at www.shopgasper.net). But you can easily make one out of wood and even simple wire fencing. They need not be large, and an area of 3' x 3' x 3' is considered ideal. Remember if making one from wood, do not make it solid. Leave airspace between slats to provide oxygen.

The formula to make compost is to add two parts “brown” material to one part “green” material. Browns include dead leaves, shredded newspaper, even twigs.