

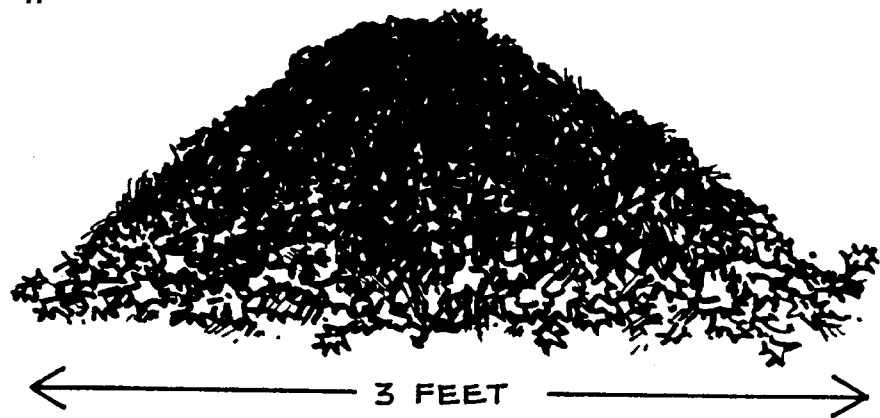


Backyard Composting: Compost Mound

Yard wastes can be composted without a bin if you don't mind the appearance of an uncontained compost mound in your yard. The only costs are your time and effort.

What You Need

- shovel or pitchfork
- work gloves



Building a Compost Mound

Find a good location and pile your yard waste in a mound about 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet (1 meter x 1 meter x 1 meter). If you cover the pile with a layer of soil, it will keep in moisture for the microorganisms and soil animals working to make compost.

Adding Wastes

Add wastes as they become available. Non-wood materials such as grass clippings and garden wastes work best.

Maintaining Your Compost

It's best to have two piles. After the first pile is large enough, stop adding organic material and let it work. In the meantime, add your wastes to the second pile. Make sure the pile is moist, especially if it is not covered with soil.

You can turn the pile to speed composting. Compost should be ready in three to four months if a good compostable mixture of organic materials is used and the pile is turned regularly, or in about one year if you don't turn the pile.

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Pub. 2610-E (3M) 4/2000 Rep.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Adapted from Cornell Cooperative Extension GPAE90712

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