

Compost System Management

This playbook outlines the steps for building a compost bin, identifying compostable materials, and managing the composting process to create nutrient-rich soil for gardening purposes.

Step 1: **Select Location**

Choose a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost bin.

Step 2: **Build Bin**

Construct a compost bin using materials like wood pallets or wire mesh. Ensure it's at least 3 feet wide and deep.

Step 3: **Add Browns**

Begin layering your compost with 'brown' materials, such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs, to start the base.

Step 4: **Add Greens**

Add 'green' materials, like vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds, on top of the brown layer.

Step 5: **Maintain Moisture**

Water the compost pile to keep it damp but not soaked, aiding the decomposition process.

Step 6: **Turn Pile**

Regularly turn the compost pile every few weeks with a shovel or pitchfork to aerate it and speed up decomposition.

Step 7: **Monitor Progress**

Check your compost's progress over time. It should be ready when it's dark, crumbly, and has an earthy smell.

Step 8: **Use Compost**

Harvest your compost and apply it to your garden beds to enrich the soil once it's fully decomposed and mature.

General Notes

Material Size

Chop or shred larger pieces of compostable material to speed up the decomposition process.

Balance

Maintain a good balance between green and brown materials, ideally a 1:3 ratio, to provide enough nitrogen and carbon.

Avoid Meat

Do not compost meat, dairy, or diseased plants, as they can attract pests and cause odor problems.