

# Small-scale compost making

## 1) Which materials can be used and at which ratio?



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|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Green Material:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30%</li> <li>• Grass</li> <li>• Fresh green leaves</li> <li>• Waste fruit</li> </ul> | <b>Brown Material:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40%</li> <li>• Straw</li> <li>• Branches</li> <li>• Woodchips</li> </ul> | <b>Manure:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20%</li> <li>• Cow</li> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Horse</li> </ul> | <b>Conditioner:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> <li>• Clay</li> <li>• Old compost</li> </ul> |
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## 3) When is the compost finished? How to apply it?



- The compost is finished when
  - the core temperature is ambient
  - it has a granular structure and „soil“ odor
  - the „cress-test“ is positive
    - test-plant grows/no weeds
  - 1 drop of water can be squeezed out of a handful of compost
- The compost should be incorporated into the soil or mixed into mulch layer

## 2) How to build a compost pile?

- Start with a layer of the lightest/roughest material like straw
- Second layer is green fresh material followed by manure
- Always put wettest/heaviest material on top
- Repeat this sequence until a height of 1.25-1.5 meter is reached
- The ground area of the pile should be 2-3 meter width and at least 4 meter length
- Add water in between the layers (about 50 litres of water per 1m<sup>3</sup> of input material)
- Compact the pile through „compost dance“
- When finished cover the pile with straw, banana or palm leaves or cotton sheets !!dont use plastic to cover the pile!!!
- Turn the pile after the core temperature has been 60-70°C for 3 days. Turn again after 3 and 6 weeks

