



Exploring 4-H at Home



Sustainable Agriculture
and Food Security

Pillar: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Activity: Getting Composting Started in Your Backyard

Composting Activity Guide- 4-H Canada
Pages 28-29



LEARNS

Learn. Educate. Access Resources. Network. Support

Getting Composting Started in Your Backyard

Topic

The steps involved in setting up a compost bin in the backyard

Learning Outcomes

Understand the factors and process involved to start composting in the backyard

Time

60 minutes

Materials/Resources

- Backyard Compost Bin
- Gloves
- Shovel
- Branches or sticks
- Organic materials from the kitchen and garden (avoid any meat, fish, dairy or fats/oils/grease). Using a dedicated container to collect kitchen scraps offers a convenient way to accumulate organic residuals for your compost bin.

Instructions

1. Look in your backyard for an open spot that has good drainage, access to sun and is convenient to access.
2. Turn the soil in the location where the compost bin will be set up.
3. After placing the compost bin, cover the floor of it with a layer of small branches. This will allow for air movement and drainage.
4. Alternate or layer "greens" and "browns" (usually no more than 15 cms per layer), always finishing the layering with "browns" or a layer of finished compost or garden soil to completely cover up the kitchen scraps and/or "greens".

Discussion/Comments

- What factors should be considered when choosing the location of your compost bin? What is the importance of each of them?

- Why is it important to layer the materials in the compost pile? Why should food scraps be completely covered up?

How can air and water be added to the compost pile? Why is this important?

How can the composting process be accelerated?

Processing Prompts

What are the ways to make backyard composting convenient?

What equipment is needed to maintain a compost bin?

How do you affect the working conditions of a compost bin?