

Composting clues by Dr Sarita Anand

COMPOSTING BY AEROBIC METHOD

A Step by step guide for beginners.

There are 2 types of Composting

1- Aerobic

2-Anaerobic

I follow the AEROBIC method .

MATERIALS.

REQUIRED .

1-Container - Old wicker basket, or dustbin , old baked mud pots, or old plastic bucket etc ,

Make several holes in the containers- esp at the bottom and sides for air to circulate, and for the leachate to escape.

METHOD

Use old newspaper or discarded paper to line the containers.

Add a layer of dried leaves followed by a layer of kitchen waste ,like veg and fruit peels,

Egg shells , leftover milk and curd , leftover cooked food etc .

If these can be cut into small pieces, the Composting can be accelerated. You can run them in a mixer also before adding to the bin .

This layer of kitchen waste is covered with some paper . The moisture in the kitchen waste will help in decomposition, and hence the compost bin must remain covered, with a cover which also has holes in it.

Bones and meat take much longer to decompose .

Repeat this procedure daily ,to your bin / box is full.

Placement

1- keep the bin in a shaded area where there is free flow of air.

2-Keep a shallow plate under the holes of the bin , to collect the leachate which is very rich in nutrients.

When the bin is full , let it rest for 3-4wks .

When decomposition occurs , the contents of the bin will settle down.

When the material in the bin breaks down completely, it will smell like fresh earth and will be dark brown to black in colour.

This can now be added to pots , a few inches away from the stem, and your plants will show a wonder healthy growth too .

Caution

At times you may see small insects in your bin, they are our friends . They help to churn and breakup the large pieces .

If you have any curd or buttermilk left over , do add it to accelerate the procedure .

Happy Composting!!!