WHY BOTHER?

Throwing things away is a waste of the resources and energy which have been used to make the product. If we don’t reduce, reuse and recycle our materials, they will have to be disposed of in one way or another. Your garden will be fertilized by a natural way, and your plants will grow healthier and look happier for it.

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the nature’s own way of recycling. It’s the controlled decomposition of organic material (leaves, twigs, grass, vegetable food waste...). Composting, first, helps to keep the high volume of organic material out of landfills (it will help to reduce pollution) and turns it into a useful product. And, second, making compost from garden and household waste is one of the best things you can do. It’s easy and costs very little time or effort. Your garden will be fertilized by a natural way, and your plants will grow healthier and look happier for it.

MECHANISMS OF DEGRADATION

There are two different kind of actors during the degradation of the organic waste. The first ones are the detritivores such as bugs, beetles, mites and the second are earthworms! Earthworms eat just about anything and in the process, break up the materials to expose many more surfaces to the smaller microorganisms which are the second kind of degradation actors. Those microorganisms are the decomposers: the bacteria, the molds and the fungi.

By adding organic materials to the soil, you improve the structure of the soil (better aeration and moisture retention) and feed the beneficial organisms in the ground.

WHEN IS COMPOSTING READY?

The length of time required for decomposition is extremely variable from compost to compost. It depends on many factors including: particles size, frequency of turning, moisture content, ambient air temperatures... After about 15-20 days, the temperature will come down; Gradually the material in the pile will turn dark brown, have a rich humus look and feel and smell “earthy”, like a forest floor. Assuming that, it’s still moist, and did not lose its temperature because it dried out, the compost will be ready to use.

All the contents of the pile will not be equally decomposed. There will always be a discernible leaf or stalk. Some materials contain lignins and other hard to break down substances, but this will not matter, as they will continue to be decomposed out in the garden.

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