



## Compost

Compost piles or bins are a handy and inexpensive source of mulch, organic nutrients and soil conditioners. The pile can be freestanding, or contained in purchased, or simply made bins. Wood frames with chicken wire or a three sided bin of brick/concrete block are homemade structures that work well. The area for your pile should be about 3 feet square, but no more than 5 feet square.

- The first layer of the compost pile should be 4 inches of organic matter - leaves, small twigs, old vegetables or flower stalks, weeds and grass clippings.
- Next, sprinkle on a thin layer of blood meal, fish emulsion or all-purpose fertilizer, containing nitrogen. The addition of Compost Maker, helps speed the process as well.
- Then spade in a thin layer of ordinary soil. Continue adding layers in this order, until the compost heap is about 3 feet high.
- Wet the pile again with Compost Maker and water in well. Water helps activate the bacteria in the compost, and also helps create heat which speeds the decomposition and helps purify the pile.
- Turn the layers each week and water during dry spells. Covering with a sheet of plastic is not necessary, but does help conserve water and heat. For those working with limited space, our high quality screened mushroom compost is an excellent alternative to a compost bin.