

Commentary

Production of basic composting to improve soil health: Types and benefits

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DESCRIPTION

Composting is a natural process of breaking down organic materials into nutrient-rich soil amendment. Composting has been used for centuries to enhance soil fertility, reduce waste, and support sustainable agriculture. Compost is a valuable resource for gardeners, farmers, and homeowners who want to improve the health of their soil and grow healthier plants. Composting is the process of breaking down organic materials, such as food waste, yard trimmings, and other plant materials, into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. The process involves creating a pile or bin of organic materials and providing the right conditions for the natural decomposition process to occur. The end result is a dark, crumbly substance that is rich in nutrients and beneficial microorganisms. Helps the soil retain moisture and nutrients. Minimizes the need for pesticides and fertilizers by luring beneficial organisms to the soil. Reduces the chance of soil erosion, carbon is sequestered in the soil.

Composting is easy and can be done on a small or large scale. Here are some basic steps to get started:

- **Choose a location:** Select a location that is convenient and has good drainage.
- **Gather materials:** Gather organic materials such as kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and leaves. Avoid meat, dairy, and oily foods, which can attract pests and slow down the composting process.
- **Build the pile:** Layer the organic materials in the compost bin or pile. A good ratio is three parts brown materials (such as leaves or shredded paper) to one part green materials (such as vegetable scraps or grass clippings).

The 3 types of composting are: Aerobic, vermicompost, and anaerobic. Each approach has advantages and disadvantages, and a composter or an individual will select the approach best suited to their materials, available space, and environment.

Benefits of composting

Composting has numerous benefits for both the environment and the garden. Here are some of the top reasons to start composting.

Reduce waste: Composting is an excellent way to reduce the amount of organic waste that ends up in landfills, where it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Improve soil health: Compost is an excellent soil amendment that can improve soil structure, water-holding capacity, and nutrient content. It also supports the growth of beneficial microorganisms, which can help to suppress plant diseases.

Save money: By creating own compost, one can save money on fertilizers and soil amendments. Compost is also a cost-effective alternative to commercial mulches.

Support sustainable agriculture: Composting is a sustainable way to manage organic waste and support the growth of healthy, sustainable crops.

Maintain the pile: To keep the compost pile healthy, make sure it stays moist but not too wet, and turn it regularly to ensure that it breaks down evenly.

Use the compost: Once the compost is ready (it usually takes 3-6 months), it should be dark and crumbly, with a pleasant earthy smell. Use it to enrich the garden soil, as a mulch, or as a potting mix.

Composting is a simple and effective way to reduce waste, support sustainable agriculture, and improve the health of the soil. By following a few simple steps, organic waste can be turned into a valuable resource that will support the growth of healthy, thriving plants.

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