FACT SHEET | COMPOST MAKING WITH PLANT MATERIALS

KHWA Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in West Africa

KCOA Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa

Compost is a mixture of plant and animal-based ingredients used as fertilizer to improve soil physical, chemical, and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, recycling organic materials, and manure.

Composting is the process of recycling organic materials into an amendment that can be used to enrich soil and plants. The benefits of compost include providing nutrients to crops as fertilizer, acting as a soil conditioner, increasing the humus or humic acid contents of the soil, and introducing beneficial microbes that help to suppress pathogens in the soil and reduce soil-borne diseases.





Preparation Procedure

1. Gather heaps of manure and fresh plants with high decomposing rate
2. Dig furrows of 25 cm depth around 1 m^2
3. Insert 4 poles of 25 cm length each at the corner of the pit
4. Insert polythene nylon into the dug furrows
5. Chop the plant materials (herbs or tree barks) into palm size (15 cm)
6. Collect the manures and ash
7. Mix the materials in the ratio 4-4-1 v/v/v (Manure : Plant : Ash - volume/volume/volume)
8. Add the materials in layers
9. Add water to facilitate decomposition process
10. Tie up the nylon at 1 m^2 level
11. Leave it for 3 to 4 months

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