

Vermicomposting



The process of converting plant and animal waste materials into manure (fertilizer) by rotting is called composting. The biodegradable domestic garbage such as fruits and vegetable peels, left-over cooked foods, and fallen leaves can be disposed of by converting it into compost.

Compost is a natural fertilizer. Compost is used as manure for growing plants.

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The method of making compost from kitchen waste by using redworms (earthworms) is called vermicomposting. Vermicompost is very high-quality manure.



Steps for vermicomposting are as follows

- Dig a pit in your garden.
- Spread a 1 or 2 cm thick layer of sand on the floor of the pit.
- Now, spread some vegetable wastes including fruits peels over the layer of sand.
- Sprinkle some water to make the layer moist.
- Put some redworms in the pit.
- Cover this pit with a gunny bag or a layer of grass.
- Leave it for 3-4 weeks.
- The excretions of redworms keep on collecting in the pit. These excretions of redworms make up vermicompost.

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Compost is natural manure which does not harm the soil. It is cheap. Fertilizers are man-made and harm the soil in the long run. It is expensive.

Note: Redworms do not have teeth. They have a structure in their body called gizzard which helps them in grinding their food. While preparing vermicompost some powdered egg shells or seashells are mixed with the wastes. The hard particles of egg shells or sea shells help the redworms in grinding their food in the gizzard.

Tip: We should not use wastes that may contain salt, pickle, oil, vinegar, meat, and milk products. Because this may cause the growth of small disease-causing organisms called microorganisms in the pit.



Think And Throw

Biodegradable Waste

The part of garbage that can rot (decompose) in nature to form a harmless substance is called biodegradable. Garbage such as fruits and vegetable peels, left-over cooked food, fallen leaves, etc. rot (decay) when buried in soil for some time. For example, Fruits and vegetable peels, left-over cooked food, fallen leaves, paper, cotton, jute, wool, silk, cow dung, leather.



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Non-Biodegradable Waste

The part of garbage that cannot rot (decompose) in nature is called non-biodegradable. The garbage such as plastics, glass, and metal objects do not rot (decay) when buried in the soil. For example, plastic, shoes, fibers, metals, etc.



Green Dustbin

Biodegradable wastes are collected in the green dustbin.



Blue Dustbin

Non-biodegradable wastes are collected in the blue dustbin.

