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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

I'm A Leaf Thief And A Composting King

By Anthony Tripodi

Every autumn, home owners rake up their leaves, place them in bags and put them out on the curb.

Every autumn I gas up my mini-van, drive around my neighborhood and steal them. I'm a skilled leaf thief and can usually fill the van two or three times in a weekend. Unlike regular thieves, I don't fence the goods on the black market because the leaves are more valuable to me and to my garden. Leaves are a great ingredient for making compost and gardeners can't get enough of them.

A person becomes a leaf thief because you can only produce so much yard waste on your own. You rake up your leaves, mow your lawn, clean up your flower and vegetable beds and it just isn't enough yard waste to make compost for a moderate sized garden. Remember that after it's decomposed it'll be a lot smaller. So when I see people throwing out this excellent garden resource I have to take the law into my own hands.

Not only is compost a nutrient rich soil amendment but it's also a great soil enhancer. It can loosen up hard clay soil and it'll allow sandy soil to retain more water. Compost can be used as a replacement for fertilizers and will also improve pH balance and soil fertility. And all of this means that you will have healthier plants and a nicer looking garden.

To make compost for the garden you'll need to collect "Browns" (carbon-rich) and "Greens" (nitrogen-rich). Fill your compost bin with 1 part "Green" to about 20 parts "Brown". With fallen leaves being a great "Brown" a large supply is a necessity for gardeners.

Without adding a source of nitrogen to your leaves you will get something called leaf mold when it decomposes. Leaf mold is still very good for your garden and can be used as a mulch. But if you want to make real compost and enjoy the full benefits that come with it then you're going to have to add some "Greens" to the mix. The grass clipping from your lawn mower are a great source of nitrogen. Empty the lawn mower bag into your compost bin whenever you mow the lawn. Another good source of nitrogen is coffee grinds. Don't worry if you only have a few cups a day, you can get more grinds from your local coffee shop or coffee chain store.

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If you keep your compost pile moist and remember to turn it here and there you should have usable compost by the time spring comes.

If your neighbors aren't smart enough to take advantage of their yard waste and make compost with it then it's up to you to make sure these gifts from the trees don't get wasted. Give those leaves a home in your compost bin and eventually in your garden. Your plants will thank you.

Anthony Tripodi is the webmaster of WatchItRot.com – The Compost Guide. For more information about Compost including ideas and equipment, visit

<http://www.watchitrot.com>

Composting

By Alasdair Meldrum

What is composting? Composting is a natural process which can mean different things to different people. The term 'composting' is used to describe a wide range of activities, from a heap of manure at the bottom of a garden to sophisticated treatment processes for commercial wastes and is designed to reduce the quantity of organic waste sent to landfills.

Community composting sites tend to be relatively small. A typical site may process up to 200 tonnes of material a year. Commercial sites, where composting is specifically a business activity, or local authority sites set up to divert biodegradable material from landfill are much larger. With some of the larger sites processing tens of thousands of tonnes each year, materials handling equipment and systems become a necessity.

The purity of the product is very important and is graded according to its organic purity. Glass is the main product that needs to be eliminated to produce a compost that is pure enough for sale. This has caused a few problems with some main commercial composting facilities therefore rendering the compost to be used for capping material until a solution can be found.

But put simply, the microbes break down large molecules into smaller ones that they can use as food. This releases heat energy, water and carbon dioxide during the breakdown as by-products and it is this heat that causes the temperature to rise, which is why compost heaps are often warm and steamy. Here are 5 reasons why everyone should consider composting:

1. Composting reduces the environmental impact of having to incinerate organic waste.
2. Organic material can form up to 1/3 of our weekly waste. Without composting, this goes straight to landfill. Composting minimises our landfill waste and recycles it back into our gardens.
3. Organic waste which is dumped in landfill rather than composted stagnates and produces methane and toxic run-off which contaminates soil and groundwater.

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4. Composting can successfully be carried out at any level, from multi-acre commercial or municipal windrows to simple backyard bins.

5. Composting is fun, easy and very satisfying.

Composting is a fun and environmentally-friendly activity. It's something anyone can do to make a positive contribution to helping the environment.

Albion Environmental Ltd can advise if you have any composting problems. We have experience in helping our clients achieving PAS100:2005 status.

Alasdair Meldrum is founder and director of Albion Environmental Ltd. Specialising in providing training and consultancy services to to waste management and environment industry across the UK.

<http://www.albion-environmental.co.uk>



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