

4 WAYS TO USE FINISHED COMPOST

BUT FIRST,

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR COMPOST IS 'FINISHED'?

Finished compost will have a dark color and crumbly texture along with an earthy smell. If it is stringy or too lumpy or you can pick out any of the original ingredients/food scraps, it still needs more time to work its magic. One way to test to see if your compost is finished is using the "bag test." Put a handful of compost into a sealed plastic bag, pushing out all of the air prior to sealing it shut. After leaving your compost in the bag for 3 days, open it up and smell: if it has a sour odor, it means that the microorganisms are still at work and it needs more time. It is important to know that your compost is finished prior to using it otherwise it can be harmful to your plants.

BENEFITS OF COMPOST

- Creates good soil structure
- Adds & retains nutrients
- Helps maintain a neutral pH
- Keeps moisture in the soil
- Protects against drought
- Protects plants from diseases
- Feeds microbial life in the soil
- Prevents the spread of weeds

Not to mention that it is an eco-friendly alternative to chemical fertilizers!



AMENDING SOIL

1

No matter what type of soil you have, adding compost will improve it. *While compost is very nutrient rich, it cannot be used on its own as a replacement for soil.*

Rather, just mix some of your finished compost into the top 3-5 inches of soil to improve its overall quality and health!

2

OUTDOOR GARDEN

Your finished compost will also have many uses in your outdoor garden, particularly during the fall as this is considered the best time to add compost. Some uses include mixing it in with or sprinkling it on top of flower, vegetable, and/or tree beds to serve as a mulch. You can also add a thin layer of compost to your grass for a boost in growth.



INDOOR PLANTS

3

Don't have the luxury of an outdoor garden? No problem! Compost is also a great additive for your indoor plants that will give them a nutritional boost and revitalize your indoor garden! Just mix the compost in with your potting soil 2 times per year to keep your plants happy and healthy.

4

PLANTING A NEW TREE OR SHRUB

Compost will also be a great way to give your new tree/shrub the healthy start it needs! When planting your tree or shrub, work up to 1 inch of compost into the top 2 inches of soil starting from the tree trunk all the way out to the outmost area of the tree cover. You can also add a layer of compost in this area to serve as a nutrient-rich mulch. *However, don't place compost directly against the bark of the tree or shrub as it can cause it to rot.*



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