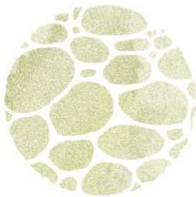
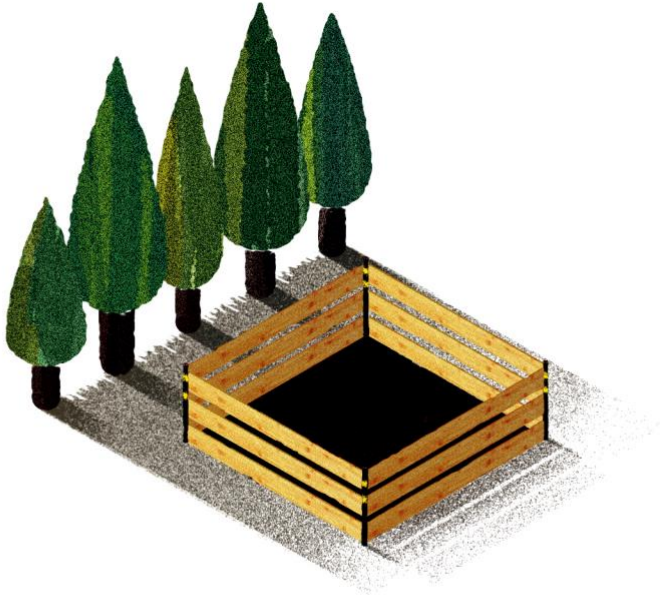




Rules for Obtaining Quality Compost₁

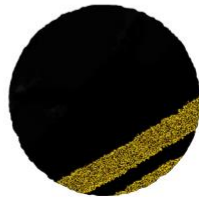
Choose a shady composting site, protected from wind. Do not position it on stone, concrete, or asphalt surfaces.



✗

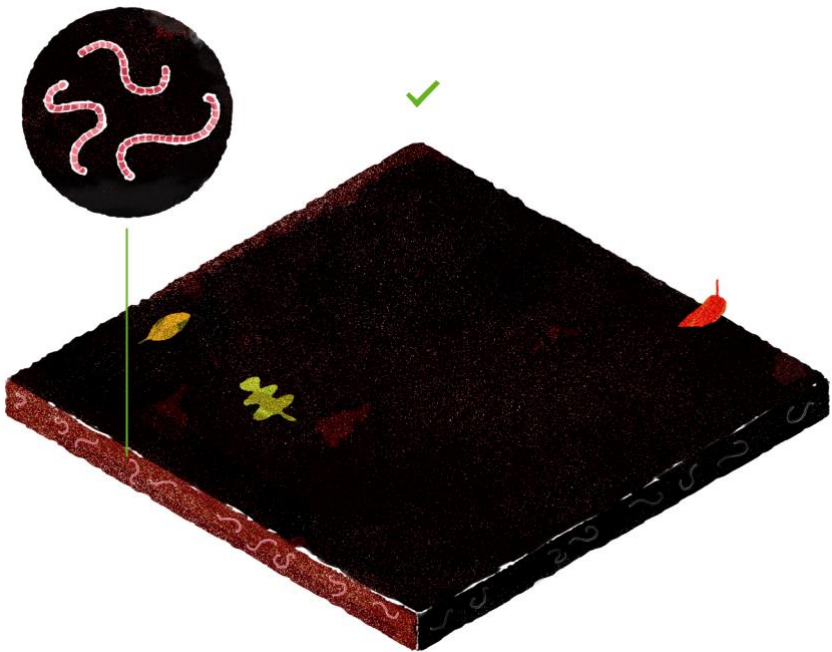


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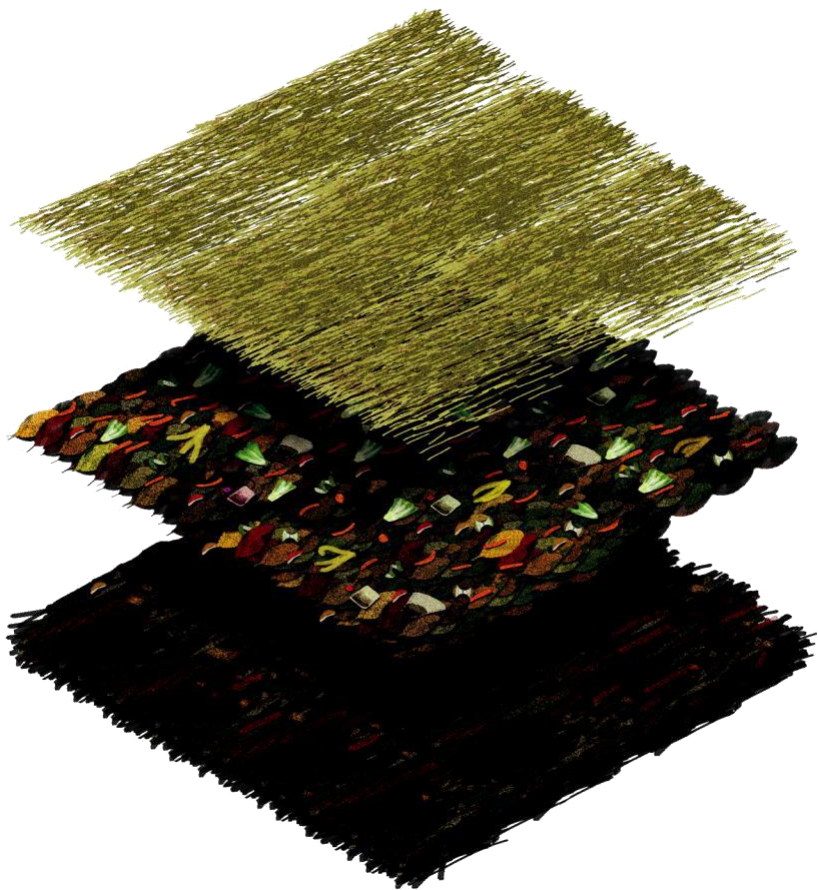
✗

The composting site should be an earthen surface, as this is the only way earthworms and other small living organisms can penetrate the compost.



Loosen the soil earth base and place larger chunks of material to make a bottom layer around 10-20 cm in height. Put smaller materials, such as leaves, kitchen waste, etc. on top of it and mix well. Spread cut grass in a thin layer or add it to the mixture, first having let it wither for a while.

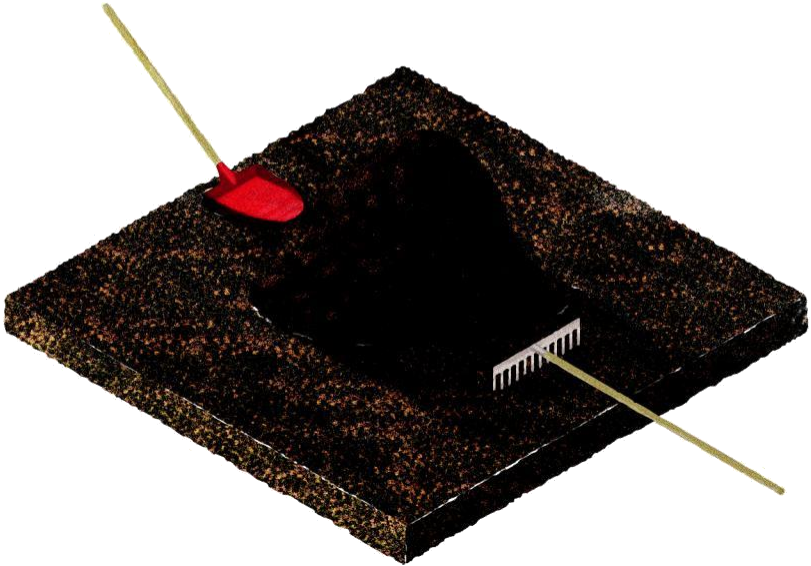




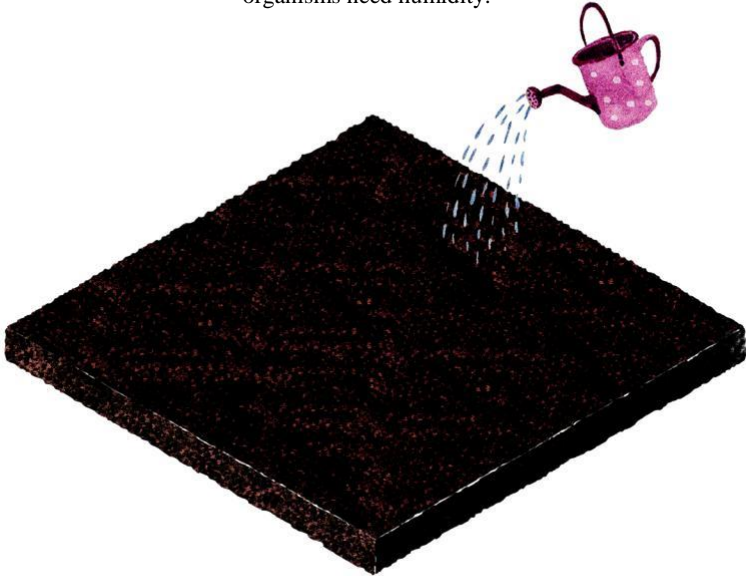
Shred and blend materials for composting well; the more versatile the input material, the better.



Add several shovels of earth from the garden or ready-to-use compost to the newly developed compost heap for “inoculation”; if needed, add Californian earthworms. Onion skins, coffee grounds and tea leaves are ideal food for earthworms.



Keep compost moist, as live organisms need humidity.

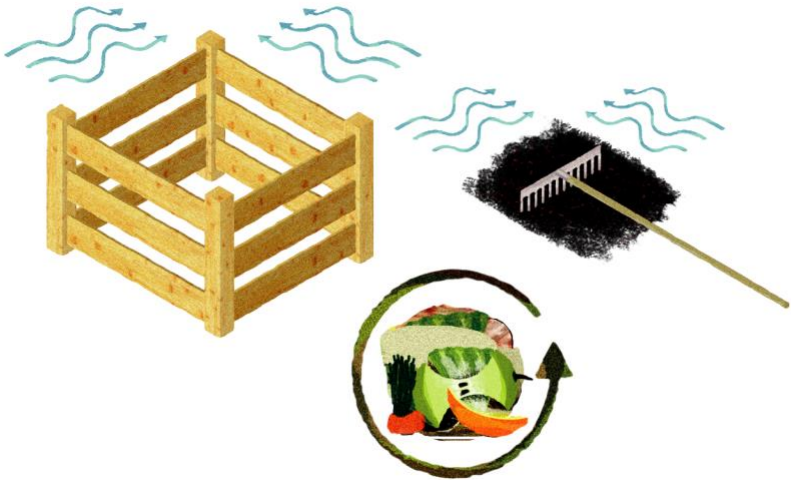


Compost must not be too wet, as this decreases the presence of air. Decreased oxygen concentrations result in changes in decomposition conditions, thus jeopardising the quality of the final compost.

Waste such as meat and cooked food leftovers attracts vermin (rodents, insects), and so should be avoided; dispose of it in the bin for separate collection of biowaste for central composting or if not available, with other residual waste.



Compost must be provided with sufficient air. This can be achieved by: Adding larger material to the compost heap; Choosing a type of compost bin which has sufficient openings to allow air supply (aeration); Avoiding the use of bins which are closed on all sides.



Mixing compost assists compost aeration, which accelerates composting. Sift the ripe compost, and put material which has not decomposed back into the compost bin or heap.

Once the compost bin is full, cover it with a lid or a thick layer of leaves or other similar material to protect it from precipitation, drying and the loss of nitrogen.

