

# COMPOST

PURE GOLD FOR GARDENERS



## What is compost?

Compost is organic material (plant and animal residues) which has been broken down into a nutrient rich soil by worms, insects, fungi, bacteria and other organisms.

## Composting benefits

- Cheap, easy to make and maintain
- Improves the soil
- Reduces soil and crop diseases
- Reduces waste going to landfills

## Types of composting systems

### BASIC COMPOSTING



Make a simple pile on bare soil. You can use a barrel, some chicken wire or other container to keep it tidy if you like.

Add your compost in layers, alternating moist (kitchen scraps) and dry (leaves, grass clippings, shredded paper).

### COMPOSTING TUMBLERS

A compost tumbler is a fully sealed container which can be rotated to mix the composting materials. The sealed container also helps contain the heat generated by the composting process, thereby speeding the process of converting kitchen and garden waste into compost. Compost tumblers were invented to make composting simpler and faster. You can even make your own!



## TIPS for successful composting

### DOs

- ✓ Add kitchen scraps of plant origin, egg shells, shredded paper, cotton rags and garden waste like leaves and grass
- ✓ If your compost is in a bin or pile, mix it with a shovel or pitchfork, and add water to keep the pile moist
- ✓ Add the finished compost to your garden and potted plants. It will take a month or so to rot

### DON'Ts

- ✗ Add anything that will attract rats or stray animals - meat, fish bones, dairy foods, fats, oils, grease, and pet or human excrement
- ✗ Add big branches that will take too long to break down