**1 FLOOR ANIMALS IN THE COMPOST PILE Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Measured temperature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of organism** | **Number of specimen** | **Notes** |
| jumper |  |  |
| isopod |  |  |
| iron dragon |  |  |
| diplopod |  |  |
| beetle larvae |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**2 Watering of the compost pile Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3 Digging of the compost pile Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4** **Observation of organism under stereo magnifying glass (sketching and naming)**

**Date of observation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Magnification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of the organism(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **5 Measuring of PH value of the soil: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**COMPOST IN 10 STEPS**

**1. Choosing space for compost**

Composting is a chemical process for which certain conditions must be ensured. The organic matter decomposes into the fertilizer only if it is suitably moist and airy. If it is too dry, nothing happens to it, but if it is too wet, rotting processes, which do not give fertilizer to the plants, begin instead of decaying processes. Such a pile smells.

In order to have as little work as possible during the year, we choose a shady and airy space for the compost pile. Space between trees or taller shrubs is great. If we don’t have one, we plant it. At the same time, we make sure that the compost pile is even in decoration, as we can plant flowering shrubs around it. The space should be drained, there should be no cave or foot of the hill where water would stagnate in the winter or summer and interfere with the composting process.

**2. Space preparation**

When we choose a space, the soil is cleared of grass; we store this and later compost it. We consolidate the soil with some clay soil, I myself am not a fan of concreting, as recommended by some.

For composting we do not need special containers, fences, we have them in the gardens so that everything is tidy. Many gardeners will therefore opt for a tidy space. The fence around the organic mass of compost can be made of very different materials, wood, bricks, wire fences ... But avoid plastic, as they do not contribute to a better appearance or even better composting of organic mass.

For easier composting and proper composting, I recommend at least two separate spaces. The first will collect waste during the year and then dispose of it in the second autumn as described below. However, if you have a lot of leaves in the garden in the fall and in the spring of wood residues from cutting, I recommend a third pile to collect and compost separately.

**3. Collection of organic waste**

Throughout the year we collect all the organic waste from our household and garden. In addition to all the known kitchen wastes, grass cuttings (if not used for mulching), vegetables left over from the vegetable garden and green weed areas, organic waste also includes natural wool, pet hair, ash, charcoal, soot from domestic picnics, by the sea. seaweed, eggshells, leftovers of cooking juices, residues of pressing grapes and fruits, even torn newsprint but not shiny, broken remains of trees, shrubs after cutting, waste, dried leaves, coniferous needles, straw, hay, peat , substrate residue, soil of balcony and houseplants, sawdust, wood chips, buckwheat, rice husks, residues of corn cones and plant parts, hair, cotton or linen, coffee and tea sediment, ferns, litter, house dust, vacuum cleaner… we collect all this diligently over the summer.

Root weeds (seeds may not be put on the pile, because with proper composting, any seed loses its germination), non-decaying things (plastic, shiny paper, metal), and bone and meat residues (not to attract pests), dog and cat and of course, human excrement (may contain residues of parasites that then return to our digestive systems through plants), citrus residues, bananas due to chemicals that are on the shell, and acids that slow down composting, the same is often true of cut flowers from flower shops. . We also do not leave any herbs left behind: wormwood, sackcloth and sage, as well as walnut bark, some discourage leftover grass from the vicinity of heavy traffic. We soak the remains of severely diseased plants for several days and only then decompose the decomposed ones.

**4. Caring for compost in the summer**

When collecting organic matter in summer, we take care not to rot. We often put more wet than dry substances on the pile. All this causes the air to expel from the pile and the mass begins to rot. Therefore, whenever we add a lot of mass at the same time (mowed lawn), we mix something dry: ash, crumpled newsprint, and occasionally shake the pile, cover it with forks to keep it airy.

**5. Preparation for stacking compost**

In autumn, the most appropriate time is October, when it is still warm enough and the sun is no longer hot and some foliage has accumulated and we start stacking the pile. We choose a calm day with no wind. If possible, keep it cloudy. In this way we do the least damage to the microorganisms. The wind and the sun's rays destroy them a lot. We get shed manure, find or cut some branches we will need for drainage, grab as many leaves as we can, but do not wait for everything to fall off, because by then the stacking pile will be frozen. Somewhere else we ask for some corn, straw, spruce, or mow separately or similar natural material.

**6. Emptying compost**

Next to the compost, consolidate the extra surface or lay the foil. Empty the accumulated organic material on this foil or surface in summer, and load a pile of manure, a pile of leaves, if any, straw, hay ...

**7. Stacking the compost pile**

At the bottom, we first load a bunch of not too cut branches, it can also be maize, sunflower stems, in short the material that will provide drainage. The layer should be about 30 cm high. Then we stack: first a layer of organic matter from the summer accumulated material, then a layer of manure, a layer of leaves and start again. The layers should be no more than 30, 40 cm thick. If we have too much wet mass but do not have much foliage, hay or straw, sprinkle it with ash, sand, soil from our home garden, unpowered but already composted material from previous years. If it is too dry, pour it with water, it is even better if the water has been soaked in nettle or clover for a few days. When all layers are folded, the pile should be no more than 150 cm high and 200 cm maximum. The weight of an overloaded mass can expel air from it and it will rot instead of the mass decaying. Finally, the pile is shaped in such a way that it is slightly higher in the middle, thus ensuring that runoff flows over the surface. Running water means problems. At the top we load a layer of corn, spruce, straw, which also prevents the pile from getting too wet. We never use foil, in the worst case we choose agrocoprene.

**8. Compost aeration**

I have mentioned many times that the pile must be airy. Only in this way will it breed those microorganisms that convert organic matter into a natural fertilizer. However, if the air runs out, the microbes rot, which transforms the organic matter into a smelly, unusable material. Therefore, the pile should be checked periodically. Often, our nose already tells us something is wrong. It must never stink of rot. The easiest way is to ventilate the pile by placing long rods on each side when folding between the material. We place them at two heights. Occasionally two stronger ones on each side grab these bars and shake them well. It is advisable to do this in the spring, when it is already warm enough. Alternatively, heap the pile with a fork and mix it gently.

**9. Compost maturity check**

Compost is ripe when we no longer separate the material, when the whole mass is similar to the earth and also smells of the earth. It is good to sift it before use so that the decomposed material is not completely separated and can be returned to the pile. Don't be afraid of earthworms. These help abundantly in the composting process. Too many earthworms in the garden, however, can cause problems, so it is better to leave them on the compost pile. The screening also identifies and removes any harmful blackheads.

**10. Use of compost**

Typically, compost ripens within six months of stacking, but is best used next fall. It is suitable for fertilizing all plants in the garden, even for the lawn. For vegetables that are long on the shaft and need more nutrients, we consume about 4 l / m2, and for roots, tubers and vegetables that have a shorter growing period, 1.5 2 l / m2. Sprinkle the same amount on perennial flower beds. Shrubs are given up to 2 l / m2 and ancient trees up to 3 l / m2. When sowing greens, sprinkle up to 3 l / m2, then sprinkle about 2 l / m2 every spring, preferably before heavy rain. In the vegetable garden, compost is put into the topsoil in the same way as manure. In the fall, we cover the perennials with it, and in the spring we shallowly plant it in the ground while the beds are loosened. It is sprinkled around shrubs, trees, more along the perimeter of the canopy, not just along the trunk. If we dig around the plants, shallowly land it in the soil, if not, let it precipitate. Shake it as evenly as possible immediately after the first spring mowing.

Much organic waste is generated in every household. They are then disposed of in the garbage collectors along with other garbage that is produced in the modern way of life. The uncontrolled, irregular decay of organic matter releases some of the greenhouse gases that are the cause of the now notorious climate change. Many believe that composting, separate collection of organic waste, makes their contribution so small that it is not worth the effort, but it is not so. The sea is made up of many drops, our beautiful and pure nature also. Every drop counts, so does ours. However, composting is quite a few drops. Contributing to a cleaner environment is not just the controlled decomposition of organic matter, in which not so much unwanted gas is released. It also means lower energy consumption for the fertilizer you buy in stores. It is true that they are organic, a natural substitute for indigenous organic fertilizers, but a great deal of energy has been used to produce them, which has also put a strain on our common environment, Earth.

(Translated with google)