



EASY STEPS TO FARM COMPOST BUILDING

Minimal turn compost building can be both easy to organise and rewarding as an addition to your program in soil health. Using local community ingredients like greenwaste, cow manure or dairy effluent combined into compost, you will find high levels of carbon and organic matter, exactly what's needed for healthy pasture and high nutrient produce.

1. The first step is to decide where you want to build the compost heap considering volume or size, access, above flood level, and enough area for inputs and machinery to mix the heap. An ex- cane pad is ideal or for dairy's close to the first effluent pond. Reasonably level ground for pasture will be adequate.
2. Secure a truck load of clean, well ground, municipal green waste. You need to measure this in m³ rather than tons as moisture content can vary.
3. Animal manure, dairy effluent or bio solids etc (up to one third by weight of Greenwaste) needs to be added to help in the breakdown process.
4. If you have farm machinery or hire a bobcat, you can now combine the inputs so they are well mixed. The heap should be 1.8m high and 3.5to 4m wide. If thirty meters long you should have close to 100m³ of materials ready to compost.
5. You now need to add Compost Builder (microbes and trace minerals) mixed with 10,000L to 20,000 litres of water (water truck) to spray the heap until water flows out the bottom.(for smaller heaps spray the microbes prior to mixing.
6. The building process is finished and your Soilife representative will measure your heaps temperature several times over the next ten-twelve weeks and give you the nod when it's ready to spread.

The Compost Builder has yeast included. This will encourage a good amount of Trichoderma fungi, just under the outer crust. This is highly sought after and you can collect the fungi just before you spread the heap.(further info from Soilife representative).



Completed compost heap on a cane pad Murwillumbah 2012 11 23

