

MANAGED (HOT) COMPOSTING

- very aerobic process
(turning pile is of great concern)
- moisture & air flow critically important
- correct carbon-nitrogen ratio
approx. 25-carbon-to-1-nitrogen
- minimum & maximum pile volumes
min= 3'x3'x3' max=5'x5'x5'
- intense microbial action involved
- heat retention (hot, even mid-winter)
- build-at-one-time (not gradually)
- human maintenance needed regularly
- small ingredient surfaces
- various textures
- relatively faster than cold composting

SIMPLE (COLD) COMPOSTING

- moderately aerobic process
(turning pile is of less concern)
- moisture & air flow of less concern
- carbon-nitrogen ratio may be irregular
- pile volume is often smaller
no min. or max. size requirements
- low-to-moderate microbial action
- composting worms may be involved
- heat loss
- may be built gradually & continuously
- human maintenance irregular
“dump & run approach”
- small ingredient surfaces
- examples:
pit, sheet, trench, tumbler, worm bin