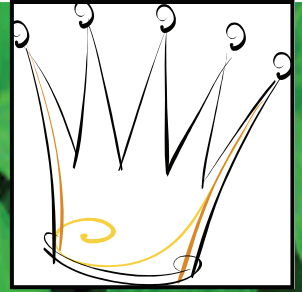


Compost is King

Why Compost?



When we put rubbish in the bin it is collected regularly and is emptied into landfill sites. Here the rubbish doesn't rot down like compost, because it's squished down and air can't circulate. So instead of breaking down quickly with oxygen to produce nice compost, it breaks down very slowly into a mush and releases methane, which is a very powerful green house gas.

In a compost heap minibeasts, fungi and good bacteria breakdown the material into its constituents in the presence of oxygen, making it available to the next generation of life. It can reduce household waste from a quarter and up to a third if using a digester too. Think of all that space saved and yummy compost for your garden!



What can go on the compost?

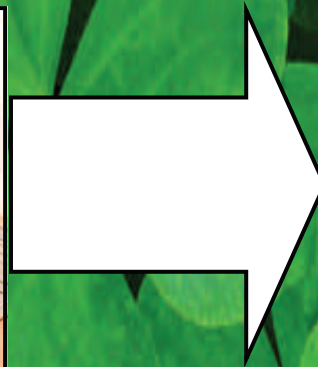
When we think about composting material, we usually turn to the kitchen and the vegetable trimmings (called green waste—full of Nitrogen). A traditional compost heap contains other things that will be grateful for the chance to become something useful again! Cardboard and paper packaging (called brown waste—full of Carbon) and veggie pets bedding (ie. gerbils) can go in too.

There are a list of “no-no's” which inhibit proper breakdown and could attract unwelcome visitors! These are mainly cooked food, dairy and meat derivatives and dog waste, but check if you're not sure. These can be put in a digester which doesn't produce compost but reduces this waste to virtually nothing with special activators, further reducing household waste.

Composting at home

In the kitchen, throw all your uncooked veggie waste into a small kitchen caddy, and empty regularly into an outdoor bin to prevent unpleasant smells! It may be useful to have a dual system with a digester as well, because if you have a few people in your household and /or forget to put the right stuff in, it wont break down properly, and will become a soggy mess!

The North Yorkshire Rotters are trained volunteers that can come and show you how to get it just right with lots of helpful advice. They can be contacted via nyrotters@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 532045 or if you live in York; rotters@stnicksfields.org.uk 01904 412861



Outdoor systems

Large plastic outdoor bins for compost are available from good garden centres or online and are the most popular choice. Placed in a far corner of the garden they should do well and look fairly inconspicuous.

There are a range of other designs to suit everyone's taste and budget, from pretty wooden ones to cone shaped digesters. Here is a website offering advice on the types best suited to you, and the companies that produce them.

Just make sure you match the bin to your lifestyle, and don't forget to read the instructions!

www.recyclenow.com/compost 0845 0770757 provides bins for North Yorkshire residents at a reduced rate, with free delivery. Their leaflet is also very informative with great diagrams.

Ryedale District



Garden waste in the BROWN bin is collected once a fortnight (apart from Dec09-Feb2010 when it will be collected once a month). This still goes to landfill so composting it in your garden is much better.

There *are* community composting schemes, producing soil for keen gardeners. Look on the web for your nearest one, in a town/village location. Also for advice in composting for this area, call 01653 600 666 or surf the web on; com.services@ryedale.gov.uk



Hambleton District

HAMBLETON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

For those of you in the Hambleton district, garden waste is put into the GREEN bin, whereas household waste goes into the black bin provided. They are collected fortnightly, taking each week in turn. The last green bin collection this year is 7th December and there's a special post Christmas collection for trees on January 18th. The regular collection begins again on 1st March 2010.

There currently isn't a scheme for compost bin supply but you can buy them from good garden centres. Call 08451 211555 for advice in this district or go online www.hambleton.gov.uk/environment/recycle
Again there are community schemes so dig out the one nearest you.

Compost at Kew

(Castle Howard Arboretum)

The Arboretum at Castle Howard has recently installed three compost bins with funding from the Howardian Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund. It has wonderful colour information boards ideal to help all learn about compost. They also have a transparent panel to view the contents as they biodegrade, a fascinating process that is usually hidden from view.

The adjoining visitor centre also has a display to browse in the warmth next to the café. Please visit www.kewatch.co.uk



Love Food, Hate Waste!

This campaign is to ensure everyone makes the most of the food they buy. The advice saves you money too ; it includes meal planning and storage, incorporating leftovers, and buying good quality local produce. It is endorsed by many celebrities and large supermarkets who are all trying to reduce the pressure on our precious resources.

Good quality ingredients have a more authentic taste, so you should want to get the most use out of them as possible. Local food also reduces your carbon footprint and supports the local economy.

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com