

EON EDIBLE GARDENS KEY LEARNING AREAS

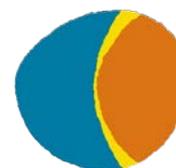
LESSON PLANS

EON EDIBLE GARDENS



EON KEY LEARNING AREA:	How to compost.
This PDF contains lesson plans for the EON Edible Gardens key learning area: "How to Compost".	
LESSON PLANS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to build a compost bay



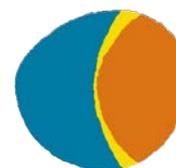


KEY MESSAGE:	How to compost
BACKGROUND:	Every garden can benefit from having its own compost bay! A compost bay can help to reduce garden waste, lowers our environmental impact to landfill, introduces worms and beneficial insects and provides healthy humus-rich compost and soil conditioner to add into your garden beds. It really is the perfect closed-loop garden system.
LESSON FOCUS:	How to build an easy, efficient and productive two-bay compost bin. This is a group project
RESOURCES / EQUIPMENT:	<p><i>This activity will require some preparation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 x non-treated pallets 10 x star pickets Wire to tie pallets Hammer/ mallet Wire snips Brown matter – cardboard/ straw/ leaves Green matter – lawn clippings/ food scraps Animal manure Hose Gardening fork, shovel Wheelbarrow Gloves <p>This is a more than one person project</p>
OUTLINE:	<p>There are many different compost bay options available; store bought stand-alone or tumbler bins are popular but making your own is just as easy too. In this lesson we will look at a very simple two-bay compost bin made from pallets. Make sure you choose pallets that have not been treated as the toxic chemicals can leach into surrounding soil.</p> <p>Why a two-bay bin? Creating a two-bay compost bin allows for there to be a flow of materials. With one bay busy breaking down fresh organics and the other, once established, full of humus rich compost ready to go on the garden.</p>

How to build a compost bay



1. Find the right location for your compost bay. Things to look for include: protection from the sun, access to water, weed-free bare earth.
2. Stand a pallet up on its side. This will be the back of one of the compost bays. Hammer star pickets through the gaps at each end of pallet and secure into the ground. (see photo at the end of this lesson plan)
3. Next to this pallet, hammer another one to form the back of the second compost bay.
4. Hammer each remaining pallet in on a right angle to the rear ones, creating the left-hand wall, center divider and right-hand wall.
5. Ensure all the star pickets are hammered in well, and the pallets are secure.
6. To further secure the compost bay, thread wire from the rear pallets to the center ones, fixing at the top, middle and bottom, and tightening to ensure the pallets are firmly held in place.
7. Begin to add “ingredients’ to create your compost. Start by adding organics. Composts need a combination of both green and brown elements. Initially add the organics to both bays. After this initial use avoid adding anything to the compost bays until the first lot has decomposed, or only use one of the bays for fresh organic additions.
8. Using freshly cut lawn clippings (green) as the first layer will give the compost a great head start! Look for lawn that is not in seed as this will transfer to the compost. Now add the brown elements - plenty of fallen leaves/ hay or straw/ shredded newspaper and cardboard. Add fresh kitchen scraps, animal manures (not pet), blood and bone and green waste too.
9. Add water to the mix of organics. Watering at least a week will help to speed up the decomposition process – but don’t overwater as this may result in the mix rotting.
10. Cover both piles with a tarp, potato sack or something similar. This will help to generate heat and kick start the composting.
11. Aerate the compost weekly with a garden fork – turning it over and mixing. If weather is warm, water after each aeration.

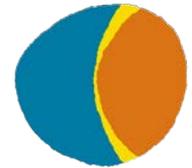


	<p>12. Compost can take anywhere from 6 weeks to 3 months to properly decompose. Once this process has been completed the compost will look dark, feel crumbly, smell earthy and easily be moved with a shovel. Move all this compost into one bay and use it on your garden as required. In the second bay start to build up a new compost pile. From here-on you can use the two bins on a rotational basis.</p> <p>What not to compost – meat, bones, bread, dairy, wheat products, cooked food, pet droppings, plastic, metal, glossy paper, large branches (rule of thumb is pencil thickness and smaller), diseased plants, weeds with seeds, poisonous plants or anything you are concerned may be toxic.</p> <p>What to compost – kitchen scraps, crushed eggshells, fruit peels, leafy greens, seed-free lawn clippings, shredded cardboard and paper, fresh leaves, fallen leaves, animal manures (not pets), teabags, coffee grounds, small branches, old veggie plants cut up into small pieces, old herbs from kitchen pantry.</p>
<p>REFLECTION ACTIVITY:</p>	<p>Make a compost diary and take notes of the decomposition process. Which elements of the compost break down first?</p> <p>Make a list of organics that can be added to your compost bay. Use the list to create a sign so that everyone understands the “compost code”.</p>
<p>CLEAN UP:</p>	<p>Wash hands Tidy up all tools</p>
<p>APPROPRIATENESS:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KK-Year 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Years 3-6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year 7 plus</p>
<p>EXTENSION IDEAS:</p>	<p>What happens in the composting process? Discuss heat generation, decomposition, the end product (humus).</p>

LESSON GUIDE

How to build a compost bay

EON EDIBLE GARDENS



EON Foundation



<https://joegardener.com/video/how-to-make-a-compost-bin-using-free-shipping-pallets/>

