

Emptying the compost bin and building up the compost heap





1. When the compost bin is full, rake and till the area you've reserved to build up the compost heap.



2. Build up the compost heap (on the right) layer by layer. Start with the «fresher» less decomposed compost, from the top of the compost bin (on the left).



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4. Fill in progressively with the older more compact matter from the bottom of the compost bin. Now is the time to check the heap's moisture content with your boots (as described in the texts). As an option, you can spread a bit of wood ash, basalt mineral fines (also known as basalt dust) and calcareous algae meal (such as lithothamnion, commonly used for soil improvement in Europe) between each layer. Include any animal carcass you may have on hand. If you plan asparagus crops, a bit of powdered gypsum can also be added.



5. The compost bin is now empty and ready to be filled, and the compost heap is ready to be layered with a cover material.



6. As an option, first sprinkle a fine layer of peat moss on top of the compost heap.



7. Two bales of straw should be enough to cover the compost heap.



8. Once you've finished, the compost heap should be fully covered with a 20-cm layer of straw.



9. Use branches or similar materials to stabilize the straw topping against heavy winds and rain.



10. You are now ready to start using your empty compost bin. Before doing so, spread out a layer of straw at the bottom of the bin.



11. View of the compost heap after 10 months of curing.