

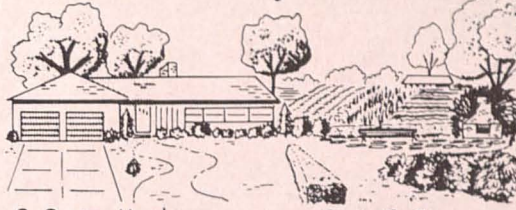
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Information Service  
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St. Paul 1, Minnesota

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# Yard 'n' Garden



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA • ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

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## COMPOSTING

Instead of burning your leaves this fall, make use of this valuable organic material by putting it in a compost pile.

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Composting is a technique for salvaging organic materials like leaves and grass clippings for use as a mulch or soil fertilizer. Compost is a good source of nutrients and when applied over the surface of a garden will help to conserve moisture and control weeds.

\* \* \* \*

It's a good idea to locate the compost pile where it will not have to be moved or disturbed during the preparation period. A temporary compost pile can be made in the flower garden at the close of the garden season.

\* \* \* \*

The compost pile is made by piling organic material in a 4-foot square. For each 6-inch layer of leaves, add about 1 inch layer of soil. Along with the soil, add 2-3 pounds of a complete fertilizer. Keep the center of the pile lower than the edges so the pile will collect the natural rainfall. Water the pile weekly, if it does not rain. Water is important for the composting process.

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A good compost pile should be ready to use after one winter.

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