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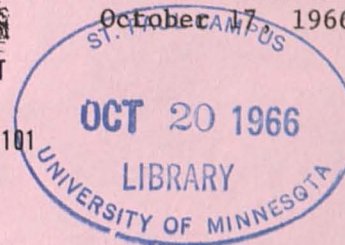
Yard 'n' Garden



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COMPOSTING GARDEN REFUSE

A compost pile started this fall can be a source of rich organic fertilizer for your garden for the next season. It also provides a good summer mulch to reduce moisture loss and help to control the weeds in your garden next spring.

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You can start collecting autumn leaves and garden refuse at this season of the year, but it's not advisable to include noxious or troublesome weeds.

The compost pile should be located in an out-of-the-way place. The back side of the garden or a semi-shaded area would be satisfactory. The compost pit should be about 1 foot below ground. For the average home a space of about 6 feet square would provide for the compost accumulation.

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Build the compost pile by placing a 6-inch layer of the compost material followed by a thorough sprinkling with a 10-10-10 fertilizer. Usually this amounts to about 1 pound for each layer. Along with the fertilizer introduce some fertile garden soil with each layer. This is to provide a variety of bacteria which is the breakdown agent for the compost. Repeat the layers, making as many as necessary for the pile.

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Leave the upper layer concave to catch water. Water is essential for the composting action to take place. Usually a well managed compost pile will be ready to use by mid-spring.

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