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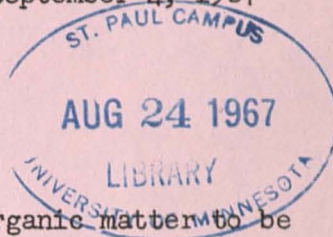
Yard 'n' Garden



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THE COMPOST PILE

The compost pile can provide an excellent source of organic matter to be added to the soil as well as a good summer mulch for the flower garden. Instead of burning your leaves, grass clippings and other organic accumulations in the yard, why not place them in a compost pile for future use?

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It is a good idea to locate the compost pile where it will not have to be moved or disturbed during the preparation. A temporary compost pile can be built in the back part of the garden.

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You make a compost pile by depositing the organic matter in a 4-foot square. For each 6-inch layer of leaves or organic debris, add a 1-inch layer of soil. Add 2 to 3 pounds of complete fertilizer to the soil. The center of the pile should be lower than the edges so the pile will collect normal rainfall. Water the pile weekly if it does not rain. Moisture is important for the composting process.

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Mixing and stirring the compost will help to speed decomposition. Turning it 2 or 3 times during the season will improve the quality and the rapidity with which it can be used.

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Compost can be used for making potting mixtures for house plants in the fall of the year. You can also place it around shrubs to help control weeds.

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