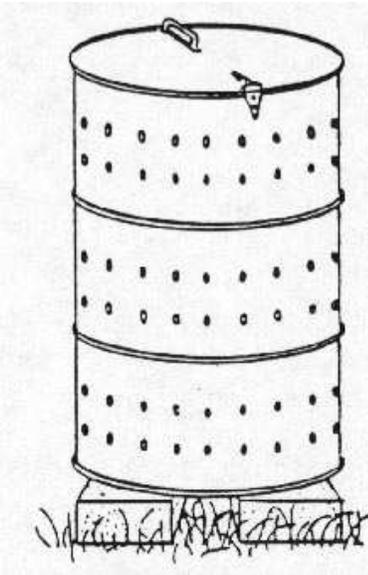


1. Barrel Composter



Composting in the Barrel

- Fill the barrel 3/4 full of leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste. Add about 1/4 cup of high nitrogen fertilizer. Add water until damp.
- Turn the barrel on its side and roll it around the yard to mix the compost. Remove the lid after turning to allow exposure to air and rain.
- Yard waste can be continually added to the barrel composter as it becomes available. Roll the barrel around the yard to mix the new material.
- Compost is ready to use when it is dark and crumbly like rich soil. The barrel composter is an excellent choice for a small yard.

Materials

- 55 gallon barrel (drum) with secure lid
- metal hinge
- drill or hammer and nail (to make holes)
- cement blocks, bricks or boards

Construction

- Use a clean barrel. Paint barrels are a good choice, as the inside has a protective coating.
- Drill or punch several rows of 1/2 inch holes over the length of the barrel and on the bottom to allow for air circulation and drainage of excess moisture. (see picture)
- Secure the lid with metal hinge. A handle may be added to the lid for easier opening.
- Place the barrel upright on blocks to allow air circulation.

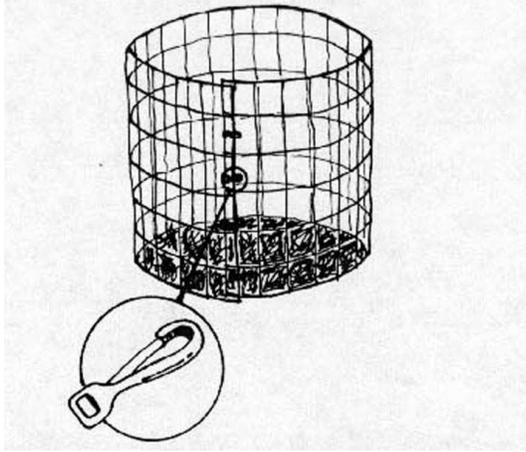
Variation of Barrel Composter

Construct the barrel composter as described but remove the top and bottom. Raise the barrel off the ground on blocks and fill with yard waste. Place a tube (perforated drain pipe) in the middle of the heap for air transfer and rain collection. Remove tube to mix heap with a shovel or pitchfork. This method may be used if rolling the barrel is not possible.

2. Wire Bin Composter

Composting in the Wire Bin

- Place 3"-4" of chopped brush or other coarse material in the bottom of the bin. This will enable air to circulate around the base of the heap.



- Place 6" to 8" of leaves, grass clippings, garden waste and other organic materials on top of the coarse material.

- Mix water into the pile until it is damp, but not soggy.

- 1" of soil can be added to the pile to get the composting process started.

- 2" to 3" of manure or a handful of commercial fertilizer can be added as a nitrogen source if needed.

- Turn the pile every few weeks, mix in more yard waste. Add water when the pile is dry.
- The pile may be turned by using a shovel or pitchfork, or pick up the bin and move it next to the pile and shovel the compost into the bin at the new location.
- Compost is ready when it is dark brown, crumbly and earthy smelling.

Materials

Woven wire fencing or snow fence

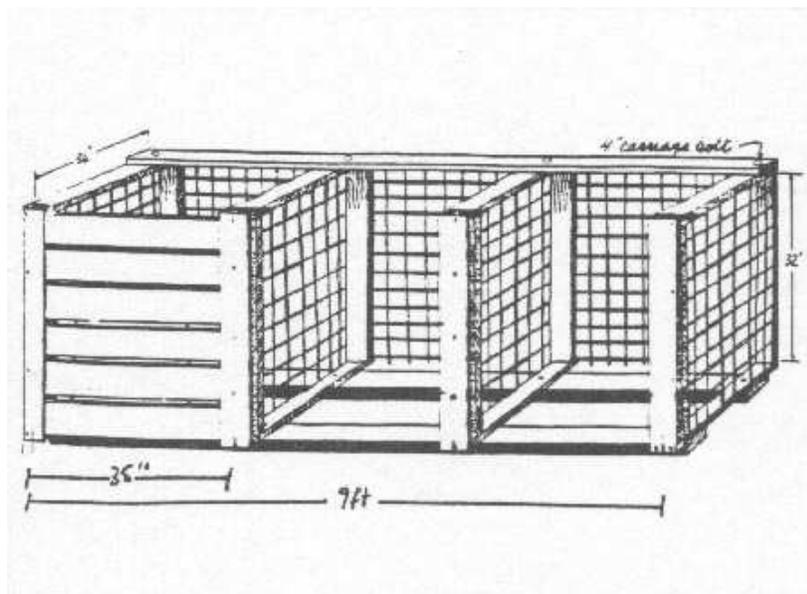
3 - 4 small chain snaps or wire pieces

Construction

- Multiply the diameter you want for the compost pile by 3.2 to determine the length of fencing to buy. The Suggested minimum diameter for a compost bin is three feet.
- Remove grass and sod cover from the area where you will construct your compost pile.
- Make a circle with the fencing and fasten the ends with wire or with three or four small chain snaps (available at any hardware store)
- Place the bin on top of the cleared area.
- The bin should be strong enough to stand without posts.

3. 3-Bin Compost System

Composting in the 3-Bin System



·Collect leaves, grass clippings, garden waste and prunings in the first bin. Add water until damp.

·Occasionally turn the pile with a pitchfork or shovel to mix material. Frequent turning will speed the process.

·When the pile has reduced in size by approximately 1/3 turn the entire pile into the middle bin. Place a batch of fresh yard waste into the first bin.

·When the middle pile has reduced to a brown crumbly material and the center of the pile is cold, turn it into

the last bin for final curing and storage until needed.

·Continue the process of turning and moving yard waste as new material is added.

Materials

3-9 foot treated 2x4s(bottom & top braces)

5 -12 foot treated 2x4s(dividers & grooved strips)

18 3 foot 1x6s (front slats)

21 feet 2"x2" wire fencing (36" width)

12 carriage bolts (4")

5 lbs galvanized nails (16d)

Heavy duty stapler

Constructing the Bin

Lay the bottom braces on a flat section of ground: put two 9 foot 2x4s 33 inches apart.

·Cut 4 of the 12 foot 2x4's into 4 pieces each. Two of the pieces should be 32 inches long to form the sides of the dividers. The other two pieces should be 36 inches long, for the top and bottom of each divider. Nail the four pieces into a 35"x36" square.

·Staple a 3 foot square of wire fencing to one side of each divider. Drill and bolt the dividers to the

bottom braces, (see illustration) making sure that the wire on the end dividers faces outward.

- Brace the back of the composter with a 9 foot 2x4 across the top of the dividers.

- Cut a 9 foot length of wire fencing and fasten it to the back of the composter with staples.

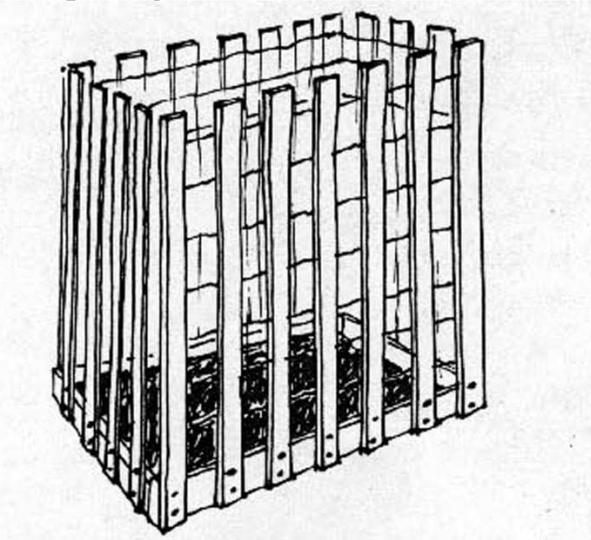
- The front end of each bin is closed off as the bins are filled. Use 6 1x6 boards for each bin. Drive a nail halfway into the long edge of each slat to create a ventilation space between slats when slid into place.

- The boards slide into position along grooved strips nailed to the front of each divider. The two outside strips are L-shaped, and the inside strips are T-shaped; both can be cut on a table saw from the 12 foot 2x4s. (See illustration)

adapted from Crockett's Victory Garden, 1977

4. Snow Fence Bin Composter

Composting in the Snow Fence Bin



- Place 3"-4" of chopped brush or other coarse material on top of the soil surface so air can circulate around the base of the heap.
- Place 6" to 8" of leaves, grass clippings, garden waste and other organic materials on top of the coarse material.
- Mix water into the pile until it is damp, but not soggy.
- 1" of soil can be added to the pile to get the composting process started.

- 2" to 3" of manure or a handful of commercial fertilizer can be added as a nitrogen source if needed.
- Turn the pile every few weeks, mix in more yard waste. Add water when the pile is dry.
- The pile may be turned by using a shovel or pitchfork, or pick up the bin and move it next to the pile and shovel the compost into the bin at the new location.
- Compost is ready when it is dark brown, crumbly and earthy smelling.

Materials

12 1/2 feet of prefabricated snow fencing

4 three foot 2x4's

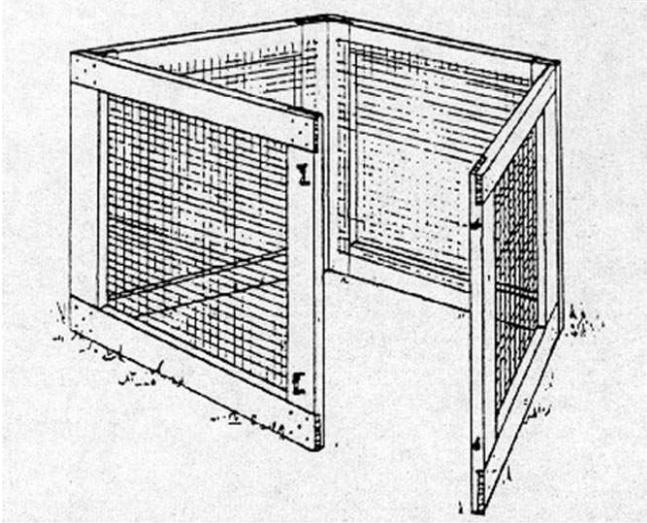
Nails and wire pieces (optional)

Constuction

- Remove grass and sod cover from the area where you will construct your compost pile.
- Construct a 3 foot square frame from the 2x4's
- Wrap and fasten the snow fencing around the frame to make a box. Fasten the ends together with nails or wire.
- Place the bin on top of the cleared area.

5.Cage-type Bin Composter

Composting in the Cage-type Bin



·Collect leaves, grass, garden waste and prunings in the bin. Mix fresh green waste with leaves to produce the best results. Add water until heap is damp.

·To turn the pile, unhook the sides, separate the sections and reassemble the bin next to the pile. Use a pitchfork or shovel to toss compost into the empty cage.

·Yard waste can be continually added to the pen as it becomes available. Add water. Frequent turning will speed the process.

·Compost is ready to use when it is dark and crumbly like rich soil.

Materials

1-12 foot pressure treated 2x4

4 3" galvanized door hinges

3 -12 foot 2x4

heavy duty stapler

12 ft * 36" wide hardware cloth

1 - 10 oz tube wood adhesive

100 1½" (#8) wood screws

6 large hook and eye gate latches

Constuction

·Cut each 12 foot 2x4 into four 3 foot long pieces (16 pieces). For the corner joint cut a ¾" deep and 3½" wide section out of each end.

·Make four 3 foot square frames from the 2x4's. Use one pressure treated 2x4 for the bottom of each frame.

·Apply enough wood adhesive to fill the gaps when the joints are screwed together. Fasten each joint with four screws.

·Cut the hardware cloth into four 3 foot square sections. Fold the edges of the cloth over 1" for

strength. Lay one hardware cloth section onto each of the four frames, tack each corner with a staple to center the cloth. Staple along all four edges of the hardware cloth. Tension the cloth so it will not sag when filled with compost.

·Connect each pair of frames together with two hinges. On opposite ends attach hook and eye gate latches. (see illustration)