

Why compost?

Reduced landfill waste

- Composting is an excellent waste management strategy for “organic” waste. Anything that was once living will compost with some provisos.....
- Organic waste which goes to landfill ultimately ends up in a packed air-less heap, undergoing “anaerobic” decomposition which is very slow and produces methane, a green house gas 20 times more potent than CO₂ and, which may enter and contaminate water supplies. The alternative to landfill, incineration, whilst reducing the mass of the waste, does not dispose of it altogether; approximately 30% of the original mass remains, it still needs to be land-filled, and is still a waste of resources.
- Around 40 per cent of the average dustbin contents are suitable for home-composting.
- If you are not composting organic material maybe you’re just handing the problem on to future generations.

Improved soil structure & health

- Home compost ensures that what you take out of the ground is returned to the ground, therefore not depleting the soil of valuable nutrients, you can replace basic chemicals from a packet, but bulky organic matter is more tricky & expensive!
- Especially important in Glasgow where clay soils are common.
- This “organic” component of soil acts as a regulator for moisture, pH, retention of nutrients & aeration.
- It is important for soil “health” & microbial activity. Home made compost contains a wealth of beneficial micro-organisms, protecting plants from pathogens & making certain nutrients more easily available.
- Improved plant health = less pest problems & less pesticides.

Reduces the destruction of valuable peat lands

- Peat beds take thousands of years to form. There are many rare & specially adapted plants & animals which live on lowland raised bogs.
- At one time extensive in the UK, now 94% have been destroyed through reclamation & peat extraction. Estimated 6,000 ha remain largely undamaged.
- Worse still we import a lot of peat for gardening which comes from Eire & Balkans – just vandalising other parts of the world!
- Our wild-life needs the peat more than we do!
- You know exactly what has & what has not gone into your own compost.

Reduces your costs

- Why waste a valuable free resource? All those old cabbage leaves, apple cores and carrot peelings.
- Home made compost will probably never meet *all* your growing medium & soil enrichment needs, but it goes a long way to doing so & thus cuts down the money you spend on peat-free composts & soil improvers
- Reduces the cost of other fertilizers required
- Reduces the need for expensive pest control

Reduced Work

- Applied as a mulch home-made compost can reduce the need for digging & weeding

Permaculture approach

Earthcare

- ✓ Improved soil structure
- ✓ Improved soil health
- ✓ Reduced requirement for pesticides and artificial fertilisers
- ✓ Good organic practice

Peoplecare

- ✓ Reduced digging
- ✓ Reduced weeding
- ✓ Reduced cost
- ✓ Can be a collective effort

Fairshare

- ✓ Reduced landfill waste
- ✓ Reduced destruction of peatlands