



Troubleshooting

Questions?

Comments?

Common Problems

- Rodents in the Pile
 - Food scraps are being added to a cold pile and the compost bin is not rodent proof
 - Food scraps are not sufficiently buried
 - Meat and dairy products are being used
 - Rodent proof compost bin
 - add hardware cloth to bottom of biostack or earth machine
 - secure lid with weight (old concrete blocks)
 - Properly incorporate food scraps
 - No meat or dairy (egg shells are the exception)

Common Problems

- Odors

- Pile is too wet
- Oxygen has been depleted
- Too many food scraps
- Food not properly incorporated
- Turn compost pile and add dry materials if too wet or too "green"
 - Leaves make an excellent dry "brown" material and also fluff up the pile
 - If leaves are wet, be sure to fluff them up before adding to the pile
- Hold off adding food scraps for a while to let pile stabilize
- Incorporate food scraps properly



Common Problems

- Pile Doesn't Decompose
 - Pile too dry
 - Brown materials not adequately chopped
 - Not enough green materials
 - Too little patience
 - Turn pile
 - add chopped green materials as required
 - coffee grounds do wonders
 - add water as required
 - remove and chop large brown materials
 - Add patience ..or.. invest in a hot pile
 - Remember that a cold pile will take up to two years to decompose



Remember a Hot Pile has

- Minimum Volume of a Cubic Yard
- Proper Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio of Around 30/1
- Chopped Materials
 - Oh the wonders of coffee grounds, grass clippings and leaves
- Wet Like a Wrung Out Sponge.
- Proper Turning to Ensure Adequate Oxygen

Common Problems

- Odors in worm bin
 - Too wet
 - Too many food scraps
 - Meat and dairy products are being used
 - Stir the contents of the lower layers
 - add dry shredded paper to absorb moisture
 - Reduce volume of food scraps being added to the pile
 - remember: never more than 1lb per square ft per week
 - Never incorporate meat or dairy products
 - exception is crushed egg shells

Common Problems

- Fruit Flies in Worm Bin
 - Food scraps not adequately covered
 - Fruit flies already present in food scraps before adding to pile
 - Add four or more inches of dry shredded paper over food scrap layer
 - keep adding more dry paper on regular basis since worms constantly digest the paper
 - Store food scraps in covered container before adding to the worm bin
 - Set a bowl of vinegar in the bin on top of the dry shredded paper
 - drowns the fruit flies

Common Problems

- Worms Die on Hot Days
 - Worm box over heated
 - greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - most common with plastic bins
 - Bedding material dries out
 - No food scraps have been added for long periods of time (months)
 - Keep worm bin in shady area
 - Consider using a wood worm bin if adequate shade can't be found.
 - Feed worms as required
 - check for moisture when feeding
 - too much moisture is usually the problem