



Garden Notes

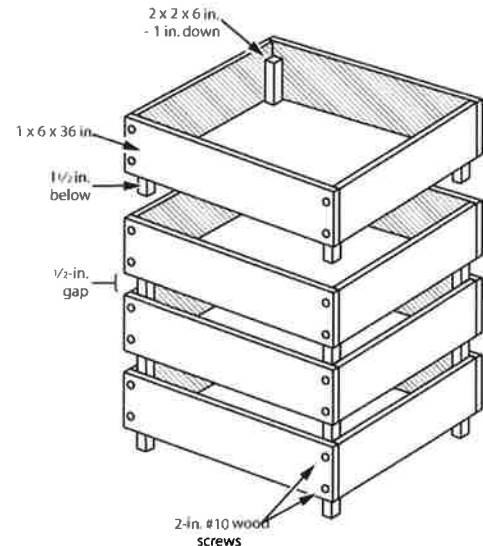
How to Build a Compost Bin

GN 176

A compost box is an attractive and effective solution for household waste and yard litter. This simple, easy-to-use compost box can be made from untreated cedar or redwood fencing boards, a furring strip, and wood screws. It only takes a few hours to assemble and will last for years.

Supplies

- 10 - 1" x 6" x 6' cedar or redwood fencing boards
Cut 10 at 36" and cut 10 at 34 3/4" For a total of 20 pieces
- 1 - 2" x 2" x 10' furring strip
Cut into 20 at 6" pieces
- One pound of 2", #10 flat-head wood screws
- Two clamps
- Two drills or bits - one to pre-drill and one for wood screws
- Skill saw (unless the wood is pre-cut)
- Measuring tape (measure twice, cut once)
- Pencil
- Safety Glasses
- Table or workspace



Instructions

Place two 2" x 2" flush with the edge of one of the shorter 34 3/4" boards. Leave a 1 1/2" offset at the top, then clamp into place. Pre-drill holes, then drive two screws into the board and 2" x 2" on both ends. Place a 36" board against the butt end of the 34 3/4" and 2" x 2"s already in place. Clamp together and pre-drill holes making sure to avoid other screws. Drive in screws, repeat to create a square with legs. Construct the remaining four sections and stack them together for a compost bin. To turn, restack, and refill every two weeks or on your schedule.

Key ingredients needed

Greens; nitrogen: Such as: grass clippings, vegetable and fruit waste, coffee grounds.

Browns; carbon: Such as: dead leaves and flowers, torn newspaper and untreated paper.

Air: turning the pile adds air

Water: add water to the pile as needed and continuously when turning. Cover if ongoing heavy rain is expected.

Resources

- UC Master Gardeners of Sacramento County: sacmg.ucanr.edu
- Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, Fair Oaks, CA workshop and location information: ucanr.edu/workshops
- California Master Gardener Handbook, second edition, pg 55.
- Bin design: Los Angeles County Common Ground Garden Program, UC Cooperative Extension

June 2024. UC Master Gardeners Kellie Hallenbeck and Rosella Shapiro. Edited by Judy McClure, UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>) Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397.

Agriculture • Community Resource Development • Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences • Master Food Preservers • 4-H Youth Development • Horticulture • Master Gardeners
University of California, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County of Sacramento cooperating.