How To Make Your Own Black Gold Compost

Categories : Growing your Own, Homesteading

What is compost?

Compost is plant based waste that decomposes to create a rich, dark brown material that is vital to keep soil healthy (and conditioned) to enable you to grow healthy vegetables and fruiting plants (flowers too!).

Why should you make your own compost?

It is nature's own organic fertilizer and it is full of nutrients and living organisms which are vital for healthy soil and plants. Using compost eliminates the need to buy and use chemical fertilizer and it makes use of/recycles your plant based food waste and other plant based waste from your garden. So... It's good for the environment, it saves your money as you are not buying chemical fertilizers and it recycles food waste. Oh yeah, it's also the single best thing you can do for your soil to keep it productive and healthy.

Everyone who grows their own fruit and vegetables SHOULD be recycling their plant based waste and making compost. It's not sexy, it's not exciting, but if you do not put compost on your soil every year, sooner or later, your crops will diminish and start to fail, FACT!

Two types of compost

There are two main types of natural compost - the one featured here, which is the compost you make yourself from plant based waste. The other type of natural compost is horse and cattle manure (actually any plant eating animal's manure can be used) and this is usually what is used for larger scale growing. If you are lucky enough to get hold of some manure, you need to put it in a pile and leave it sit for at least six month before you dig it into the soil. This is mainly because when horse/cattle manure is collected, it also contains the urine in the mix, this amount of urine is bad for the soil and plants. It will actually burn most plants and kill seedlings.

Fun tip (well I say fun...) - when making your own compost with your plant waste, you can occasionally collect your own urine and mix it in, this acts as an activator and helps to speed things up! Not too much and not too often though as too much is bad for the compost.

Single best bit of advice for growing your own fruit and vegetables

Make your own compost and if possible get hold of some horse/cattle manure. Your soil will love
you for it, your plants will grow big and strong and you will eat well indefinitely.