

COMPOST

Glossary

AEROBIC: the utilization of bacteria with oxygen to reduce the volume of waste.

ANAEROBIC: the utilization of bacteria in the absence of oxygen to reduce the volume of waste.

ACTINOMYCETES: fine, gray-coloured cobweb like organisms. A cross between bacteria and fungi, they excrete vitamins and antibiotics as they consume the organic waste in the compost pile.

BINARY FISSION: a biological splitting of a nucleus into two nuclei; a form of simple reproduction.

BIOCHEMICAL: a chemical process of living matter.

BIODEGRADE: the breaking down of a substance through natural decomposition into harmless elements in a short period of time.

DUST BOWL: land on the Great Plains from which the eroded topsoil was blown away, in the 1930's.

HUMUS: the result of decomposition of vegetable or animal matter, taking place over hundreds or thousands of years.

MACERATED: a mechanical grinding of material, to increase its surface area, thus speeding up the composting process.

MESOPHILIC: bacteria that are active at temperatures from 21 to 40° C.

PATHOGEN: an organism that produces disease, a bacteria or virus.

PSYCHROPHILIC: bacteria that are active at temperatures below 21° C.

THERMOPHILIC: bacteria that are active at temperatures from 40 to 93° C.