

Composting 101

Inoculation Pile

Starting a inoculation pile: first decide what you want for a result.

Number one, maybe you just want to reduce waste residue from the garden or kitchen.

Number two, maybe you want an inoculation compost pile. This would be a pile that we control more than a standard compost pile.

The one we will discuss today is the inoculation pile. We start this pile with 1 cu ft worm castings, we add minerals, fungal material that we gather from our site, we add soil from our grow site, we gather soil from around the roots of healthy, growing plants in the woods around us, we gather soil from areas such as the soil around a fence post, etc.

1. Selecting a place: out of the traffic area, accessible, near water, medium to full sun and protected from rain erosion.
2. Feeding the pile: when you start this pile it is important how we apply. We must be gentle. Our baby is a bit fragile so we use 5 gal buckets filled with water and add mineral (1 Tablespoon MM), stir well and sprinkle evenly. This process can be repeated many times and is best applied in 14 day intervals, slightly increasing the amount of mineral and or dry humate that is added to the bucket with each application.
3. Now we add materials noted for their special characteristics such as clays, microbes and ancient humates.
4. Next we add microbe foods, green and brown. Green material feeds bacteria and the same material when brown is now fungal food. It is important in this pile to keep this concept reasonably balanced.
5. There are others materials that add value and diversity to this pile such as outdated vitamins, powdered milk, whey, probiotics, animal feeds, flour, oat meal or flax flour (not seeds). This pile won't heat up like a conventional compost pile would and should.

Now that you have it, let's use it.

This pile is used to inoculate other piles or the garden, fruit trees, the lawn, pastures... any place you wish to have a very healthy space. This concept is the basis for all soil regeneration. The application process is a bit different for the home gardener. We use a hydro applicator for larger systems and you'll be using use a watering can... either will give the same results.

As in #2 above, the same procedure is used for applying to your spaces. In a five gallon bucket of water, add a cup of the material from you pile, 1 tablespoon MM, 1 cup of your regular compost, mix well a couple times, add the mixture to a watering can can and apply to your space.

Feed the soil foodweb and it will feed your plants... this is your first step to creating a healthy environment.

The Dynamics for Life Hinge on the Electrical and Magnetic Properties of the Environment to Which Life is Exposed.