B.U.G.S. WORKSHOP, April 5 & 8, 2007

Organic Materials and Minerals For The Composter

Does compost smell? NO! Why not? It's not rotting – it's being broken down aerobically by microorganisms. Bacteria start the process of decaying organic matter by breaking down plant tissue. Fungi and actinomycetes (soil bacteria that produce nitrogen that are useful for other organisms). Later in the cycle, centipedes, millipedes, beetles and earthworms do their part. Apply bacterial cultures to boost biological activity.

Alkaline (Carbon)(dry, brown, yellow, bulky)	**Acidic (Nitrogen)(green, moist, sloppy)**
Egg shells	Alfalfa hay (C:N 12:1)
Greensand	Ash leaves (C:N 25:1)
Kelp meal (apply 10-15lbs/1000 sq ft)	Blood meal/fish meal
Limestone (calcium carbonate)	Chicken feather meal
Oak leaves (C:N 50:1)	Coffee grounds
Oyster shells (Ground)	Cottonseed meal
Paper (C:N 170:1)	Grass clippings (C:N 20:1)
Pine needles (C:N 75:1)	Gypsum
Sawdust (C:N 300:1)	Kitchen scraps (fruit/vegetable peels)(C:N 15:1)
Straw (C:N 100:1)	Peat Moss
Wood ash	Rock Phosphate
	Sulfur
	Timothy hay (C:N 25:1)
	Vinegar

Compost Tea: Soak compost in cloth bag in pail of water. Dilute to light tea color.

Protein Source: Nitrogen (so microbes can build their bodies)
Energy Source: Carbon
Rule of thumb: 30 carbon : 1 nitrogen (energy : protein) by volume

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