

Why use organic compost?



Organic compost is one of the best fertilizers in existence. Using it provides many benefits, such as:

- increasing the amount of **beneficial microorganisms** and organic material in the soil
- improving the physical structure of the soil, **increasing water infiltration and retention** while **decreasing erosion**
- supplying **macro** and **micro-nutrients** gradually

Also, **it's free!** You can use organic waste from your property to make organic compost.



Millennium Challenge Account
Cape Verde



Ministry of the Environment,
Rural Development and
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Organic Compost



São Domingos, Santiago

Layers of organic material decomposing under palm fronds.



Organic compost in a wheelbarrow, ready to be applied.

ONE IN A SERIES OF 5

Agronomy

www.mca.cv/pt/formacao/documentos-formacao/

Preparation



Separate and prepare the plant and animal material to be used, and choose a **partially shaded** location to prepare the compost mound.

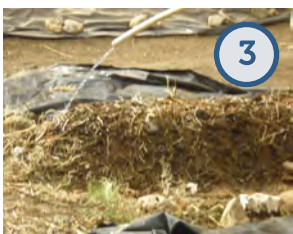
2 **Make** a layer of dry plant material...



then on top, a layer of animal waste...



and finally a layer of green plant material.



3 **Drench** the mound with water, keeping the humidity around 50-60%.



Cover the wetted pile with straw or plastic to protect it and maintain adequate humidity.



Stir and turn the mound every 15 to 20 days to promote good aerobic fermentation.



After a while (2½ to 4 months, depending on the material used, the method of preparation, temperature, humidity, etc.), the **compost will be ready**.

Application

How you fertilize with organic compost will depend on the fertility, texture, and structure of your soil, as well as the particular requirements of your crop. The suggested amount is at least **3 kg/m²**.



Other ideas

For **homemade compost**, add organic material (egg shells, fruit and vegetable peels, paper, coffee grinds, etc.) and cover with a thin layer of soil to prevent flies from laying eggs. Water it and turn occasionally until it attains the characteristic aroma and moisture level.

If you raise animals that are gathered in a pen at night, cover their pen with a layer of straw. Every day, cover their droppings with new straw, gradually forming a bed of straw, droppings, and urine. You can also add layers of ash and other available materials to enrich the compost. After 15 days, remove the material, pile it up in a mound, and give it time to compost.