Organic material is available for composting when enough time has passed for decomposition to occur. The main category of organic material is municipal waste, which can be collected and disposed of by either chopping the material or composting. Compost can reduce the amount of money spent on buying fertilizer. Composting can improve the quality of crops by improving soil structure. Composting also reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Composting is the process of decomposing organic matter to produce a nutrient-rich soil amendment. The composting process must be divided into a number of sections in the lower layers. The pit should be aerated and prevent waterlogging of the compost. The compost material will be dried and the organic material used in the composting process. The compost pit is dug to a depth of 1.2 meters and the composted material placed around the sides to form a bund. The compost is turned and watered to encourage decomposition. The compost is then ready to use.
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This division is required for later, when turning of the heap will be necessary. On the branch layer place the organic material. The heap should be built up in layers of 10 inches up to a maximum of 6 layers or 5 feet in height. The layers should be alternate between vegetable waste and then animal waste if it has not been mixed and prepared beforehand. As each layer is added it should be lightly watered so that it becomes damp but not saturated.

In the middle of each heap a ventilation pole should be inserted. This will help in the aeration of the pit which is necessary for the composting process. The pole should be moved around from side to side in a circular motion as the heap is being constructed. The ventilation pole should be less than 4 feet apart and when the heap is completed it should be left in place.

**Turning of the heap:** In order to get optimum results from composting, it is necessary to turn the heap on regular bases. The first turn is usually carried out after 2 weeks. If you have two compost heaps then you will need three sections in order to turn the heaps.

Layer. This layer is watered lightly and the next 10 inches layer of heap 2 is placed on top of this. Again the layer is lightly watered.

The top layer (10 inches) of heap 2, is turned onto the floor of section 3 in a section 2.

This process continues until all of heap 2 is in section 3.

Following the same procedure, the heap in section 1 is turned layer by layer into section 2.

The second turn should be carried out after a further 3 weeks, during week 5 after heap construction. After nine weeks a third turn is made. The final compost product should be mature about 12 weeks after starting. Mature compost has a friable texture, an earthy smell and is dark brown in colour.

**Use of Compost:** After the compost is ready it should be used at once. Any delay may result in a reduction of the nutrient content due to rain and sunlight. The best time to apply compost is just before ploughing. Compost should be ploughed in to a depth of 4 inches where it will readily available to developing crop root system. The compost will breakdown slowly releasing the major plant nutrients, nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) and also the minor and trace elements.