

Uses of Compost

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TOP dressing with soil compost is very necessary to bring about good putting green turf. Experience, observation and experiments show that this soil mixture or compost should consist of clay, loam, sand, together with well-rotted barnyard manures, leaves or other organic matter. The type of compost necessary for grass food must be such that may be made into fine grains and easily absorbed or assimilated by the grass roots and surface growth. Such a compost must be suitable in every way for the grass plant requirements. For soils already rich in humus or organic matter it would not be wise to use a compost with an over-abundance of manure; but this should be the chief ingredient for the type of soil formation which needs much building up in organic matter.

It is never wise, however, for compost that is to be spread directly on the grass surface to be overly rich in manure. It is estimated that clay, loam and sand should be about 80 per cent and manure not more than 20 per cent of the material applied to the soil. Too much manure would likely create a splendid breeding ground for earth-worms, beetles, and their larvae. Furthermore too much manure on the surface would not be easily assimilated by the grass plants and would likely prevent soil aeration and soil moisture absorption. What materials may be brought together for use rests with the conditions and circumstances, but the essential items are soil-grains mixed with humus made as fine as possible.

How to Procure Compost

Turf or sod boasting plenty of fibrous roots is the first requirement of good compost. The roots, rather than the surrounding soil-grains, are the important thing; so turf, to be of the best value, must have plenty of root-growth. Grass which has been browsed upon or kept cut short makes better compost than tall growing sod. Tall, starved grass produces longer, thinner and fewer roots than short grass. Meadow-sod, turf where cattle have been running, is particularly the best because of the short fibrous roots and the fact that such turf has been enriched by the stock.

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good surface soil should be used, particularly a soil which has been enriched with a plowed-under cover-crop of peas or clover or enriched with manures. Barnyard manure, if procurable, by all means should be added for mixing in the compost pile or bed. Weeds, wood-chips, peat, or moss litter which may have been used for stable bedding are other materials to be considered. Sand is very useful and necessary where the existing soil is of clay or muck formation.

How to Treat Compost Ingredients

For speedy use the materials may be placed in low piles or shallow pits and mixed, or placed in layers and mixed later. Mixing may be done by hand or by harrows drawn by horses. Frequent turning over aids in speedy decomposition, especially if barnyard manure is present. If the compost be very dry, an occasional drenching with water is needed. (Care must be taken, however, to guard against the soil being made too wet by over-deluging with water.) To aid in decomposition, especially if straw and weeds are present, ammonium sulphate should be applied, using 10 to 15 pounds to a cubic yard.

Another system, which perhaps is the better when at least a year can elapse before the compost is used, is that of stacking the compost in layers. This system is usually adopted by gardeners for potting-soil requirements. Decomposition is not brought about as rapidly with large stacks as it is with shallow beds, but the stacking is especially suitable where sod or turf is concerned and perhaps with manures. The same thing applies to freshly gathered leaves. All may be placed in layers from six inches to a foot thick or more. Stacks may be any height.

When to Procure Compost Material

As far as the turf is concerned, the best time to collect it is after the growing season, late summer or early fall, because of the presence of many new live fibrous roots. Manure may be placed in heaps at any time and rotted down, and, if required allowed to decompose separately and later mixed as a compost. Weeds can be cut down and allowed to decompose during the summer season. To save time, it is usually wise for the sod or earth, the manure or other organic matter, and the sand to be placed together rather than in separate piles.

Shelters for Composts

The mixing of soil may be done any time

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if shelter be provided. If the stacks, beds or pits are fully exposed the material that is screened may be stored under a temporary shed so that heavy rain, particularly in the spring or fall, may not cause the sifted soil to become too wet. No doubt exposure to the weather aids in decomposition of the compost but sheds allow for winter work which otherwise could not take place. Sheds permanent or otherwise may be built of wood with a roof, and sides if desired.

Screening the Soil

Before compost is used it must be made fine by sifting or screening because it is the fine grains that are needed. But on no account must the rough material remaining after screening be thrown away because if it is organic matter it is most valuable and should be worked back again for further decomposition. Rubbish, sticks and stones must be discarded.

Do not keep compost in stacks for a number of years. While this will bring about complete decomposition and fine soil grains, its plant-food value is low. New composts possess much more valuable plant-food material than old soil mixtures. Old soil lacks vitality.

Application and Quantity

For best results with grass plants, top-dressing should be done as soon as growth commences in the spring and should be continued through the growing season until late fall. Monthly applications may be the best. Frequent soil applications are always advisable where continuous mowing takes place. On putting greens, especially during the height of the growing season, grass is mowed daily, which means that new surface plant-food is very necessary.

Grass plants are surface feeders. They do not send down long roots unless searching for plant food, but remain within an inch or so of the surface, where they send out various forms of stolens and short roots.

It is not wise to apply a heavy top-dressing in the winter months or at any time. A depth of one-sixteenth to one-quarter of an inch is sufficient, just enough so the grass can absorb the soil mixture after watering or brushing. About a cubic yard of screened compost to 2500 to 5000 square feet is usually enough but conditions vary and experience teaches what to apply in special cases. During the early spring and



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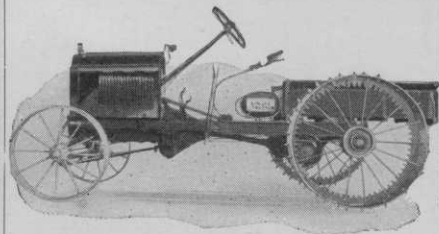
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fall larger quantities should be used, because the grass plants at this time make their most rapid growth. A heavy winter dressing is not recommended whether it be of compost or sand; suffocation may follow.

Conclusion

To sum up, a compost for top-dressing should be composed of the best possible ingredients; it should be applied at the right periods in the right amounts with the proper combination of fertilizer and water. Grass must be treated as carefully as any other cultivated plant. Remember that and you will never be far wrong.

Keeps Daily Watch on Feeding Finances

WITH a comparatively short busy season it doesn't take long for a club restaurant to run hopelessly behind in the year's operations. To keep a close check on food expense and receipts one of the well managed metropolitan district clubs devised the accompanying form which, even with the necessary estimated items, is proving a practical and positive aid to thrifty operation.

Clubhouse Daily Expense and Receipts.

(Date).....

Kitchen:

Payroll () employees, including manager\$.....
 Meals to kitchen employees—Cost.....
 Depreciation and breakage.....
 Food waste—Estimate.....
 Oil, electricity, water—Estimate.....
 Ice consumed—Estimate.....
 Interest and insurance on equipment investment

Total daily kitchen overhead.....\$.....

Dining Room and Grill:

Payroll () employees, including house-keeper\$.....
 Meals to same—Cost.....
 Laundry, including rooms' laundry.....
 Depreciation and breakage.....
 Interest and insurance on equipment investment

Total daily dining room overhead.....\$.....

Food and Supplies Received in Kitchen Today:

... lbs. meat and chicken — Average price (). Total.....\$.....
 ... lbs. fish—Average price (). Total