Cold Composting: A Simple Method

1. **Construction**: Continuous additions at various times. "Dump–n–Run".

2. **Container**: Very useful and recommended, but not absolutely necessary.

3. **Size**: Variable depending on container and method selected.

4. **Location**: Ideally convenient for homeowner and close to water source.

5. **Carbon:Nitrogen ratio**: May be variable. Depends on makeup of additions.

6. **Moisture**: Variable, ideally 50%.

7. **Aeration**: Variable. Ideally varied textures create air spaces.

8. **Ingredient size (feed stocks)**: Variable.

9. **Attention**: Variable, irregular; turning/watering depends on homeowner.

10. **Temperature**: Pile temperature will most likely equilibrate with ambient air.

11. **Drawback**: Cold composting is an effective, but slower, method of composting.

12. **Microbial action**: Often less prolific than hot method, fungi and molds are active in the cold method. Beneficial insects are involved in the process.

13. **Time to product**: Variable, 6–24 months.

14. **Product volume**: 1/2 to 1/3 of original size.

15. **Cold methods may also include**: pit, trench and sheet composting and worm bins.

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