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Build Compost Pile For Fertilizer Use

and of burning grass, leaves, weeds, and plant residues, start a compost pile, suggest natural specialists at the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. With a minimum of labor and expense, it will provide a supply of fertilizer for your garden, flower bed, or border.

The principle behind the compost heap involves the decomposition of organic material into humus for soil. A wide variety of materials can be used. — yard refuse, vegetable scraps, and coffee grounds. Any material that does not contain bone, rubber, metal or any other toxic material can be

It is not just dump these materials in a loose pile in the corner of the garden or the result would be a decomposed product of unpleasant odors, flies and other insects feed and accumulate. The best method is to dig a pit and stack the materials. A deep pit would be a foot-high masonry structure allowing a compost heap four to five feet high, with one corner left to permit drainage. The size varies with the amount of compost to be made. The pit can also be constructed with boards. A walled pit helps control fly breeding and prevents litter from being spread. Or, dig a pit the

required size down to the subsoil. If the waste is to be stacked, a concrete or masonry base is recommended but hard-packed clay will suffice. Again the dimensions of the pile depend on the amount, but the stack should not be more than five feet high. Slightly sloping ground is preferable for drainage.

Build the heap in layers, alternating layers of plant refuse and soil, peat, or muck. Taper the pile toward the top. Don't pack the material in too tightly; allow the air to get inside. If the pile is built in an exposed area, cover it with straw to prevent drying and to maintain the high

temperature needed for composting. Keep it moist and turn the pile several times to mix the material. Waste material chopped into small pieces will decompose in a relatively short time. Coarser matter requires three or four months. With cool temperatures, it may be six months or more before the compost is ready to apply to the land.

By constructing a compost heap methodically and efficiently, a satisfactory product will result. It will contain a high concentration of nutrients, kill weed seeds and disease cells, reduce fly attraction, and provide an excellent disposal for farm, home, and other wastes.

New Chemical Treatment Converts Straw To Feed

Straw or corn stover treated with lye or sodium hydroxide could be a valuable feed source as a result of research at the University of Guelph. Dr. Dave Mowat, Department of Animal Science, says the treatment is possibly a year away from practical application.

The application of a dilute solution of sodium hydroxide breaks down or

softens some of the fibrous materials making cellulose and other plant constituents more available as energy sources for ruminant animals. The principle is comparable to that used in the paper industry to treat wood pulp.

The cereal or corn plant, says Dr. Mowat, is made up of approximately 50 percent grain and 50 percent stalks and leaves on a dry matter basis. The energy in the grain is readily available. By applying the chemical, the energy in the stalks and leaves could be made just as available. The straw could then be used for feed instead of just bedding. The figure of over one million acres of unused corn stover alone gives some idea of the feed potential, he said.

While treatment costs are relatively low, Dr. Mowat feels that it will have first application with straw since the effect is greater with straw than corn stover. The most effective system seems to be to spray the liquid on the plant material as it is ensiled.

There is, however, a limit to the amount of treated straw you can feed and obtain good results, says Dr. Mowat. Also, the straw should contain 60 percent moisture or more for effective treatment. Thus, possibly the most effective system would be to treat the entire plant, grain and all, as it is ensiled. The liquid sodium hydroxide would be metered onto the whole mature plant cereal or corn silage at the silo while ensiling.

However, says Dr. Mowat, more research data is necessary concerning silage characteristics, carcass data, etc. before final recommendations for application can be made.

There were five new national parks in Canada since 1965.

Spiritual Luncheons

TORONTO (CP) — A group of about 50 Toronto men are experimenting with a new type of businessmen's luncheon every Tuesday.

They meet that one day a week just 100 yards from the downtown strip, with its myriad restaurants and cocktail lounges. But no alcoholic drinks are served where these men meet — the Holy Trinity Church.

The men meet with Rev. Desmond Hunt, rector of the Anglican Church of the Messiah, to talk informally about the Bible and to eat lunch.

Prof. E. J. Barbeau of the University of Toronto's mathematics department attends whenever his busy schedule permits.

"What we get is not preachy, from great heights, but a real sharing by a believable person of insights that relate to life," he says. "It's not a substitute for action in the world, but a basis for it."

Con Baker, 38-year-old president of a chemical specialties company, says the meetings help him keep a fresh religious outlook on the realities of the business world.

"I find that traditional or pat pulpit talk is just not applicable to the complex questions of business ethics or the search for answers to the thorny social and political problems we have to face."

"In the teachings we get here, in the free exchange of opinions over lunch with men in the same situation as myself, I find help in these sensitive areas."

Jack Biscoe, a wholesale lumberman and a lifetime church member, says he is able to communicate his

ideas and philosophies to other businessmen for the first time in his life.

Mr. Hunt says he merely serves as a catalyst.

"I just prime the pump and they talk and work it out as it hits them individually," he says.

He lectures for only about 20 minutes, then throws out a question for discussion. Later over coffee and sandwiches, the men talk about things ranging from the Vietnam war to debate about selling church property to help the poor.

GOES TO AUSTRALIAN

TORONTO (CP) — Trevor J. Wigney, an Australian, has been appointed chairman of the department of history and philosophy at the provincially-supported Ontario Institute for studies in education. The institute's director, Robert Jackson, said the institute searched through Canada and the world before appointing Wigney, who has spent several years as a lecturer at OISE and at the University of Toronto's Innis College.



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