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FORUM**

Composting is an environmentally conscious method of creating a valuable product out of organic wastes. At present, the fundamental challenge composting facilities face is in properly aerating the piles. Using conventional composting methods, piles must be turned frequently, or they risk becoming anaerobic and putrefying. When this happens, foul smelling gases such as ammonia and mercaptans are produced, and harmful bacteria proliferate. This makes for angry neighbors, numerous flies, and a potentially disease inducing finished product. The problem with continually turning the piles to prevent putrefaction is two-fold. One, it is very labor intensive and therefore expensive. Two, even frequent turning is not 100% efficient and anaerobic pockets inevitably begin to putrefy in the piles.



Commercial Windrow Composting facility eliminated complaints from neighbors about foul odors by using EM•1, New Zealand.

EM•1 can help your operation to overcome these challenges. EM•1 is a mixed culture of beneficial microbes including Lactic Acid Bacteria, Yeasts, and Phototrophic Bacteria. The addition of EM•1 into the composting process can stop the odor problems and establish beneficial microbial growth by preventing the anaerobic pockets from putrefying. When carefully managed, EM•1 has the potential to reduce the frequency of turning the piles, saving you time and money.

Inoculating compost with EM•1 is simple and cost effective.

MATERIALS:

1. EM•1
2. Molasses, (Feed grade/bulk) Cane sugar or blackstrap
3. Clean Water
4. pH paper or a pH meter to check the Activated EM•1 solution
5. Materials that will be composted

PROCEDURES: *(for fresh materials that are not rotten or high in moisture content*)*

1. Make Activated EM•1 according to directions on container 3-5 days before processing materials.
2. Once pH drops below 4.0 (closer to 3.5 is better) AEM is ready to use.
3. Dilute AEM with water at a rate of 1 part AEM to 100 parts water just prior to application.

***IF MATERIALS ARE ALREADY ROTTEN OR HAVE A HIGH MOISTURE CONTENT, DILUTE AEM WITH LESS WATER, SUCH AS 1:50 OR 1:25**



Making windrows of banana waste by hand, after inoculating with EM•1, Guatemala.



Commercial EM•1 Food Waste Composting facility with no foul odor, Italy.



Typical three bin home composting system, spraying EM•1, Netherlands.

EM TECHNOLOGY NETWORK *Non Profit Organization*

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