

Follow Up Information to Grow a Bountiful Garden Webinar 040126

As always, thanks for attending and posing such great questions. Here is some follow up information to questions asked:

Rats in Gardens and Compost Resources:

Preventing Animal Nuisances in Small Scale Composting from Cornell University

<https://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu/resources/composting-preventing-animal-nuisances>

Are rodents and bunnies nibbling your zucchini more than usual this year?

<https://blog-fruit-vegetable-ipm.extension.umn.edu/2021/08/are-rodents-and-bunnies-nibbling-your.html>

To Eat or Not to Eat? Less-than-perfect Garden Produce

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/to-eat-or-not-to-eat-less-than-perfect-garden-produce/>

Gasoline in Compost Pile

Sources I reviewed recommended disposing of gasoline infected compost in a hazardous waste facility. I suggest you contact your waste disposal company or municipality for additional information and suggestions on handling this.

Can I Compost It?

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota/natural-resources/waste-reduction/composting/what-is-composting/what-can-be-composted/can-i-compost-it/>

25% Organic Matter in Soil

A bit of insight on types of soil amendments – if your plants are performing well I would just not add more organic matter at this time. We did talk about adding some quality topsoil to increase the mineral matter if needed.

Soil Conditions – Establishing A Successful Gardening Foundation

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/soil-conditioning-establishing-a-successful-gardening-foundation/>

“The addition of organic matter is beneficial, but too much can be detrimental to plant health. Start with adding 25% by volume or 2 inches of organic matter into the top 6 inches of the soil. A good rule of thumb for inground beds or gardens is to use one 25 to 50-pound bag of compost or manure per 1,000 sq ft.

CAUTION: Incorporating more than 50% organic matter into the soil may negatively affect plant growth.”

Shredded tree leaves or was it comfrey leaves soaked in water is a good DIY fertilizer?

DJ thanks for sharing the source YouTube@Jabezinvests

What I found was him using comfrey along with compost in an anaerobic situation sort of creating a compost tea. My concern is there some missing details for it being truly effective.

There is some new research happening on dynamic accumulating plants like stinging nettles and comfrey, testing some of the long-held often dismissed practices in permaculture. This article *New Findings Further the Study of Dynamic Accumulators*

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2022/04/new-findings-further-the-study-of-dynamic-accumulators/>

from Cornell University talks about their recent research and preliminary findings.

I worry about some information shared that lacks critical details that may be of concern for all or some gardeners. Comfrey and stinging nettles are very aggressive plants and can quickly take over a garden and need to be managed in most cases. But we are gardeners and like to try new things. If it is not harmful to you, the plants or your garden you may want to give it a try. As with any gardening practice you implement, monitor your results and adjust as needed.

Would adding dryer lint help retain moisture?

You often see dryer lint listed as a carbon-rich raw material for compost in both University and garden related publications. One University source was concerned about the polyesters and other non-organic materials that may be in the lint. I could find no information on adding it directly to the soil. I don't know if it would provide the air space, nutrients and moisture holding ability of Wild Valley Wool Pellets that has been certified organic and subjected to University research.