



HORSE MANURE COMPOST

Turn Stable Waste into Garden Gold!

Horse manure compost is a nutrient-rich, safe, and natural way to improve your soil, feed your plants, and reduce waste—sustainably!



WHY COMPOST HORSE MANURE?

- ✓ Rich in nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium & trace minerals
- ✓ Improves soil structure and water retention
- ✓ Feeds beneficial microbes and earthworms
- ✓ Reduces odors, weeds, and pathogens
- ✓ Safe, slow-release nutrition for all garden plants



THE COMPOSTING PROCESS – STEP BY STEP

1 COLLECT



Clean stalls daily. Remove wet spots and excess bedding. Collect manure, straw, and bedding (avoid shavings from treated woods).

2 CHOOSE A LOCATION



Pick a dry, well-drained spot with good airflow, away from water sources. Easy access is best.

3 BUILD YOUR PILE

Make your pile at least 3 ft wide x 3 ft high x 3 ft deep (bigger is better!).



4 LAYER FOR SUCCESS

Alternate layers:
• Brown materials (straw, dry leaves, shredded paper)
• Green materials (horse manure, fresh weeds, grass clippings)



Aim for a mix that is moist like a wrung-out sponge.

5 MOISTURE MATTERS

Keep the pile moist, not soggy. Add water as needed. Too dry = slow composting. Too wet = bad odors.



6 TURN & AERATE

Turn the pile every 1–2 weeks for the first 2 months, then every 2–4 weeks. This adds oxygen, speeds decomposition, and prevents odors.



7 MONITOR TEMPERATURE



Ideal composting temperature is 130–160°F (54–71°C). Use a compost thermometer. Hot = good!



- Below 100°F = too cool
- 130–160°F = ideal
- Above 165°F = too hot (turn pile)

8 COMPOSTING TIME

Depending on size, materials, and care, compost is ready in 4–8 months. It should be dark, crumbly, and earthy-smelling.



HOW TO KNOW IT'S READY

- ✓ Dark brown, crumbly texture
- ✓ Earthy, pleasant smell
- ✓ No recognizable manure or straw
- ✓ Pile no longer heats up
- ✓ Volume is reduced by half or more

Ready to use and great for your garden!

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Smelly (like ammonia)	Too much manure / not enough browns	Add straw, leaves, or shredded paper. Turn pile.
Too wet & soggy	Excess moisture / poor drainage	Add dry browns. Improve aeration. Turn pile.
Pile not heating up	Too dry / not enough nitrogen	Add water. Add fresh manure. Turn pile.
Too hot (>165°F)	Pile is too large or dense	Turn pile. Add browns to balance.
Flies or pests	Fresh manure exposed	Cover with browns. Keep pile turned and moist.

BEST MATERIALS TO COMPOST WITH HORSE MANURE

BROWNS (Carbon-Rich)

Use these dry materials:

- Straw
- Dry leaves
- Hay
- Shredded paper
- Sawdust (untreated wood)
- Cardboard
- Wood chips (small)



GREENS (Nitrogen-Rich)

Use these fresh materials:

- Horse manure
- Grass clippings
- Fresh weeds
- Vegetable scraps
- Garden trimmings
- Coffee grounds



Aim for a 2–3 parts browns to 1 part greens ratio. Balance is key to fast, odor-free compost!

HOW TO USE FINISHED HORSE MANURE COMPOST

GARDEN BEDS



Mix 1–2 inches of compost into the top 4–6 inches of soil.

TOP DRESSING



Apply 1/2–1 inch around plants and gently work into the soil.

POTTING MIX



Mix compost with soil and other ingredients (up to 20–30% compost).

LAWNS



Top dress with a thin layer and water in well.

TREES & SHRUBS



Spread 2–3 inches around the base, keeping away from the trunk.

Always water after applying compost.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Use clean bedding (straw is best).
- ✓ Chop or shred large materials.
- ✓ Keep the pile covered in heavy rain.
- ✓ Turn regularly for airflow and even decomposition.
- ✓ Be patient—good compost takes time, but it's worth it!



BENEFITS FOR YOUR GARDEN



Improves soil structure



Increases water retention



Feeds beneficial microbes



Promotes strong, healthy plant growth



Natural, organic, and sustainable

SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Compost horse manure before use to reduce weed seeds and pathogens.
- ✓ Do not use fresh horse manure directly on edible crops.
- ✓ Always wear gloves when handling compost.
- ✓ Store finished compost in a dry place.



Healthy Soil. Healthy Plants. Happy Horses. A Natural Cycle of Goodness!

From the stable to your garden—compost makes it grow!