

# Our Garden Resources

Leaf Mould:

- ◆ Free! And Fungal!!
- ◆ Great for seed sowing
- ◆ Additive to garden compost/commercial compost
- ◆ 1-2years - How patient are you??
- ◆ Weed seeds???

# Leaf Mould

How to:

- ◆ Collect – choose your day wisely!
- ◆ Old fashioned peg & chicken wire or black bin bags
- ◆ Aeration & moisture
- ◆ Time & patience



# Leaf Mould

- ◆ Different leaves have different rates of decomposition
- ◆ Shredding can be helpful – watch out for hedgehogs!
- ◆ Beech, hornbeam & oak are best/quickest
- ◆ Finished product – personal choice & depends on end use



# Garden Composting

## Benefits:

- ◆ Its free and will save you money
- ◆ Nutrient rich includes micronutrients!
- ◆ Recycling – avoiding landfill
- ◆ Great for soil: texture, structure helping aeration & moisture retention
- ◆ Good to add to other composts
- ◆ Feels good

# Garden Composting

The Five Essentials:

- ♦ Green & brown stuff
- ♦ Air – who's breathing?
- ♦ Moisture
- ♦ Space/size
- ♦ Particle size – expose those surfaces!
- ♦ (6<sup>th</sup> – Time)

# Gardening Composting

The Green / Brown Mix:

- ♦ The decomposers need food & energy!
- ♦ Green stuff: provides N<sub>2</sub> – protein e.g. grass, soft leafy stuff, fruit & veg
- ♦ Brown stuff: provides carbon – energy e.g. hedge trimmings, paper, autumn leaves
- ♦ Ratio 25-30:1

# Garden Composting

Air!

- ◆ Add a bit of the rough stuff
- ◆ Aeration through sides

Moisture:

- ◆ Soft leafy stuff
- ◆ Water!

# Garden Composting

Particle size:

- ◆ Expose and increase surfaces for action
- ◆ Get the balance right to build heat and maintain aeration
- ◆ A good working compost can achieve temps 60-70 C which will deal with weed seeds.



# Bins, piles & worms!



# Eco-pledge

- ◆ Composting workshop
- ◆ Make your own compost/leaf mould
- ◆ Consider using peat reduced/peat free
- ◆ Ask your local nursery/garden centre what they use?

# Composting - alive with Wildlife!



I'm a Celebrity – Get me Out of Here!

