

Composting and disposal of waste materials

Upper compost bays:

- Left and right bays: Degradable 'green' and 'brown' waste for composting – grass, weeds and general vegetation, woody material which will rot. Chipped wood.
- Note that these bays will alternate between being in use and resting. All fresh material should be added to the 'in use' bay; the other one will have a 'do not add to this compost heap bay' sign on it – please turn over the contents of this bay occasionally, or just leave it to rot down.

*See Linda's notes on composting below

Wild area on opposite side of path to the steps up to the Mediterranean Zone – please put all brambles here.

Black wheelie bins – comfrey and nettles can be regularly chopped into these unless they are being used for woodchip.

Small brown bins – bindweed and any other harmful weeds which we don't want in the compost.

Wood pile above the loo – large, usable pieces of wood.

Dead hedge – wood off-cuts can be interwoven into the existing structure or piled up on top to keep it at around 4 or 5 feet high

Wood pile below the loo – all other wood.

Other waste –

- *Any bamboo or knotweed (let's hope there isn't any) should be bagged and stored in the incineration bin.*
- *Any non-biodegradable waste should be taken offsite for disposal.*
- *Do not add any cooked food to compost piles – it is prohibited – take it home.*

Linda's notes on composting:

Basically, there is little point in working to long lists of what should and shouldn't go into the bins because we are limited by what's available. It seems that the best way to approach the composting and to give the material the best chance to rot is to think of brown and green materials. Meaning woody bits are brown and leaves etc are green.

The mix that will rot most quickly and then be useable is half and half brown and green. But in an Orchard setting there is a view that up to three quarters can be brown, since this is the predominant material. In both cases the woody stuff needs to be pre chipped! We can now

do this so I suggest that if we can we go through the current two bins and chip as much woody stuff as possible.

Fill one bin as close to half and half as possible, make sure it's wet and close it down to allow it to complete the composting process. Should be 6-9 months.

Fill the other one up to 75% brown. Create another space for woody cuttings that are waiting to be chipped.

A poster can go onto the open bin, explaining the half and half ambition but up to 75% possible.

I think we will be short of green material, well really we have too much brown. There is the possibility that some of you may feel able to bring green waste from home, but let's see how we do first.