

Composting and disposal of waste materials

Upper compost bays:

- Left and middle bays: Degradable 'green' and 'brown' waste for composting – grass, weeds and general vegetation, woody material which will rot. Chipped wood.
- Right hand bay: brambles – cut into manageable pieces – this pile will be for compacting and left for long-term breakdown and as a wildlife habitat.

Lower compost bays – as per the left and middle bays above.

**See Linda's notes on composting below*

Wood pile by top of steps by entrance – for wood waiting to be chipped, 1-2.5cm diameter. And very thick bramble stems only – also for shredding.

Wild area on opposite side of path to the steps up to the Mediterranean Zone – any other brambles which won't fit into the above piles; other general waste too bulky to compost or process.

Black wheelie bins – comfrey and nettles.

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.

- *Any further 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.*

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.