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Key Elements To Consider For A Successful Aeration

If you're still new to gardening and are still learning the tricks of the trade, you've probably already heard about aeration.

You've probably also heard about how important it is and why you should make sure to aerate your compost, lawn, etc.

True enough, aeration is in fact very important when gardening. If you don't do this right, your garden won't be at its best; or worse... It might suffer (CONSIDERABLY)!

So that you won't have troubles like that in your garden, allow me to share with you the things that you need to know about aeration. I'll even share with you tips on doing it aside from explaining the logic behind aeration, so you'll have a better idea of what the process really is.

Here are the things that you need to know about aeration.

- **What exactly does aerate mean?**

Simply put; to aerate is to ventilate or it's the process of allowing air (oxygen is the critical element) to pass through.

- **Why is it important?**

Aerating is very important especially in the process of decomposition because it requires oxygen. The thing is, the organisms that are responsible for decomposition uses up the air supply quickly and without it, the entire decomposition process slows down. Although the process of decomposition won't stop without aeration, it's going to slack down DRAMATICALLY. That's why it's crucial that you turn your compost pile periodically so oxygen can seep in the compost and jumpstart the composting process again.

- **What tools can I use to aerate my compost?**

All you need is a garden fork or a shovel. You should be able to aerate your garden with these tools. However, if you're looking for a more advanced tool, you can use a compost aerator. Through these tools, you can turn your compost pile so the aeration process can start bringing in oxygen to it. From there, the organism responsible for the decomposition process should be able to function better.

- **Can I aerate my compost without turning it?**

Glad that you asked that! As a matter of fact, the answer is... YES!



Although aeration is very important, there's actually a way for you to aerate your compost without actually turning it. Here are a couple of ways to do it.

- a.) Lay a shipping pallet (made of wood) as the foundation of your compost. This allows air to circulate at the bottom of your compost.
- b.) Stick a PVC pipe vertically into your compost and the top most part of your PVC should be sticking out of the pile. Make sure that you stick the pipe deep enough so it reaches the bottom part of your compost. You just need to make sure that you drill several holes in your PVC pipe before sticking it in and that should allow aeration. An ideal diameter for your PVC should be 4 inches.
- c.) Start your compost with a layer of larger word trimmings, corn stalks, etc. This allows air to pass through at the bottom of your compost.

- When do I turn my compost? If you're just starting, you need to turn your post several times (3 – 4 times a week) within the first two weeks. Once you reach the 4th – the 8th week, you can turn it once a week at that point.

- Be sure to feel the moisture when turning. You need to feel how moist or dry your compost is when turning. The rule of thumb is that it should have a consistency or texture of a sponge.

While there's a lot to learn about the process of aeration. These are the basic and you should fare well with your gardening if you consider these aeration tips and facts

About the author: Jimmy R. is a writer for www.toptopiary.co.uk . He's completely "gung ho" about gardening and is in constant search for the best looking garden designs.

