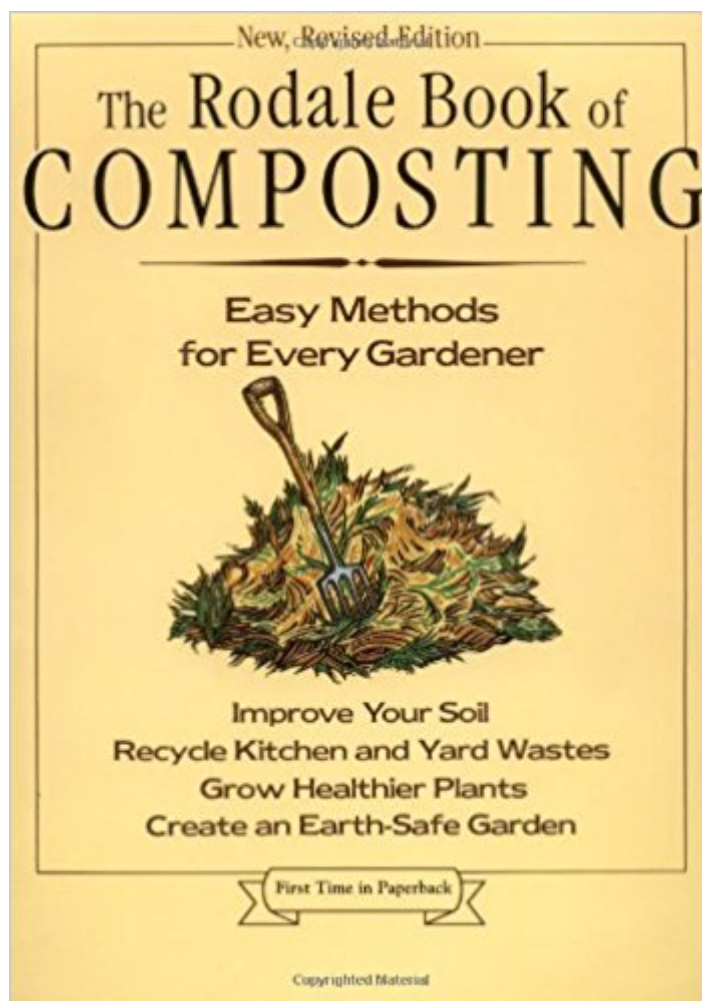


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# The Rodale Book Of Composting: Easy Methods For Every Gardener



## Synopsis

The essential guide to composting for all gardeners and environmentally conscious people. Composting is fast becoming a household word. Gardeners know it is the best way to feed the soil, while others look to composting as a way to dispose of grass clippings, autumn leaves, and tree trimmings. The Rodale Book of Composting edited by Grace Gershuny and Deborah L. Martin offers:

- \* Easy-to-follow instructions for making and using compost
- \* Helpful tips for apartment dwellers, suburbanites, farmers and community leaders
- \* Ecologically sound solutions to growing waste disposal problems

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an update of Jerry Minnich and others' *The Rodale Guide to Composting* ( LJ 5/1/79), which itself updated J.L. Rodale's *Complete Book of Composting* (Rodale Pr., 1960. o.p.). The broad spectrum of information given will be useful from backyard urban gardening on up to industrial, municipal, and farm recycling. The first quarter of the book gives you all you ever wanted to know on the science of composting--and more--along with some history. A discussion of materials, methods, structures, equipment, and uses is followed by a brief look at large-scale composting. The writing is an uneven mix of scientific detail and the anecdotal. Chemical reactions are described in exquisite detail, and yet most quotes, while attributed, are neither dated nor their source given. Stu Campbell and Kathleen Bond Borie's *Let It Rot: The Gardener's Guide to Composting* ( LJ 1/91) is more readable and inviting for the individual gardener. While useful for its in-depth, detailed coverage,

Rodale's almost-textbook is recommended only for comprehensive gardening collections.- Sharon Levin, Univ. of Vermont Lib., BurlingtonCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Lovers of compost. . . will be able to polish their techniques, and beginners will experience a whole new adventure.”  
Eddie Albert, Award-winning actor and avid gardener

This was the first book I ever read about composting, a subject I was minimally interested in. After one reading I was hooked on composting! I bought the book about six months ago and have since read it over and over, always seeming to learn something new every time I read it. In the meantime I have read everything I can find about composting. This book seems to cover everything. The other things I read are generally just a different way of saying the very things that are in this book. I believe the Rodale Book of Composting should be called the bible of composting for the everyday person.

This is great book, but mainly for high end outside, composting with large areas of land or huge built wooden composting units, etc... for the farmer or major food or land grower. It is not really for the home apartment composter with worms trying to grow and re-use soil in a garbage can for sprouts, etc.. They cover a garbage can briefly, but it was not enough to go on for someone trying to get castings and soil compost working in a can in an apartment or condow. However, the book is technical and very clear on how important it is to understand soil balance and the mechanics of this related to microbes in the soil, various bugs and how all elements of nature, water, soil, minerals, metals etc... affect our soil and like blood in our body must be balanced and kept correctly balanced or plants don't grow and get nutrition and the life cycle on the earth for all living things that eat plants etc.. does not work well. The importance of composting and not using pesticides and hurting the nearby lakes and fish with them and other aspects of being a real composting farmer are discussed. I still think it is very important information for any gardener or lover of the earth to know and read. Good book.

Although the bulk of the material contained in this book could be found online, it's still a worthwhile purchase. Indeed, it is a must have. The purchase price of the book will be quickly regained in the money you will save making your own compost rather than purchasing bagged compost or synthetic fertiliser. A few of the chapters are more interesting than useful to the home gardener. For instance, one of the early chapters discusses the history of composting beginning with the ancient Akkadians.

The final chapter discusses managing large scale compost operations (by large scale, I mean tens and hundreds of tons of waste) on the farm or as part of a municipal waste management strategy. The core of the book, however, is very directly useful. A chapter is provided describing the chemistry of what goes on in composting, and what goes on as plants attempt to take nutrients from the soil. Another chapter describes the various types of life from microbes to insects and worms (including lovely line drawings) that inhabit a compost pile during the various phases of its lifecycle. By far the most useful chapter is chapter 6, which provides a list of potential ingredients for your pile and suggestions on how to obtain them. Numerous charts are provided that indicate on balance whether an item should be considered a "green" or a "brown", and (should you desire more specifics) the actual NPK content of various ingredients. This is fully a fifth of the book. The next most useful chapter is chapter 10, which gives suggestions for various sorts of compost bins you can buy or build. Another chapter describes tools like chippers and shredders that might be useful to you if you plan to make a fair amount of compost. Alternatives are suggested for the folks who don't need quite that much labour saving help. I can't think of anything that is not in this book that I wish it had. Nor for that matter, can I think of anything that needs to be cut from it. It strikes the perfect balance between comprehensiveness and brevity.

I HIGHLY recommend The Rodale Book of Composting to any and everyone who has an interest in composting. This book can be read as an in-depth text book for those who want to seriously delve into the topic. At the same time, if you have a general interest in composting, you can skim through only the pertinent parts as well. I've referred to it a great many times, as well as referred others to it as suggested gardener reading. Super, SUPER, S U P E R book. Easy to read, but at the same time highly informing.

It's helpful so far. Be careful not to confuse this with the original. I did and bought it by mistake. Turns out to have been a happy accident.. The editors did a great job with the update. This copy was a 1992 version (newer than expected). Glad to have the real book. Rodale Press kept up standards. If you want to go to your favorite search engine and try to figure out which of the 30 different answers to same question are accurate, have fun. Rodale Press, in my opinion, remains an accurate source of information about gardening and composting. Glad to have the book. It will be a life long reference. Book came in great shape, nearly new condition. [https://smile..com/dp/0878579907/ref=cm\\_cr\\_ryp\\_prd\\_ttl\\_sol\\_0](https://smile..com/dp/0878579907/ref=cm_cr_ryp_prd_ttl_sol_0)

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