

Bernalillo County Master Composters course



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Photos from the City of Albuquerque
Open Space Center

By Jo McEntire

www.nmcomposters.org

Hot Compost Demonstration with John Zarola



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Bins for a hot compost process: 3 x 3 feet each, at least 3 feet high



Option: Wire cage with plastic bags clipped inside



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Wire cages to store seasonal brown materials



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Start with a layer of **bulky plant materials** that break down slowly



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Cage is not lined - for demonstration purposes.

More bulk: pine cones, cardboard tubes, egg cartons



Add more bulky browns to allow for air movement



John's mixed recipe: crushed **dry leaves**, **manure** – about 30:1 by weight



**Add water until wet but not soaked.
Load mix on top of the bulky material.**



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Let the compost cook

- Add water and hold it in
 - Cover with tarp, old rug
- Add Air
 - Turn it every few days
- Hot composting process
 - Temperatures rise to 170 degrees
 - Temperatures then drop to 70-90 degrees

**Once compost cools: Finish it.
Screen compost and remove large
materials. Keep in container with air flow.**



**Finished? Earthy smell =
humus! Turn into soil gently.**



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