

## COMPOSTING TO ENRICH THE SOIL GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US

Here is a way we were able to turn heavy, useless soil into light, rich, workable soil in just two years.

### An easy way to compost and enrich the soil:

Choose a plot where you want eventually to grow a garden or trees. Dig two holes.

**Hole one:** Deep, at least 3 feet. Use this hole for items that need to be burned (paper, plastic), for metal items (batteries, etc.), and for tin cans and large bones. The cans and bones will decompose, but they will take years to do so. Hence, they must be buried below 1 ½ feet so that they will not be plowed or tilled up in any later gardening. Burn items in this hole once a week or so. When it gets full to 1 ½ feet, fill it by using it as a general compost pit as described in hole two.

**Hole two:** Shallow, 1 ½ feet. Have them place the dirt from this hole right beside it. Keep a large can by the pile for scooping dirt. This is your working compost pile which will actually enrich the soil many times over. Find a covered can or dish to collect scraps for composting, emptying it once a day. Empty kitchen compost can into the shallow pit and use the can you keep by the pile of dirt to cover the scraps lightly. Sometimes chickens scratch through the scraps, depending on what is in them. If this is bothersome, just add a little more dirt when you cover the scraps. When the hole is full, ask the workers to dig another one right beside it and continue enriching a new spot of soil. Good items for composting are vegetable and fruit peelings, pits and other parts, hair, egg shells, fingernail clippings, leftover food that is not greasy, small bones like from fish and chicken, fish heads, blood from meat, peanut or other nut shells, coconut shells, grass, weeds, or any plant parts. The soil will be enriched in two ways: 1. It will become lighter and more workable, thus holding water longer 2. It will become greatly enriched in vitamins and all kinds of trace minerals, especially if you bury a wide variety of once-alive materials. Breakdown begins with a week and is complete within six months or so.

### Notes on disposal of problematic substances:

**Grease and oil:** Do not put grease or oil or greasy food into the compost hole (and certainly not down a drain or a toilet!) This can be poured into the soil in a driveway, where the soil is intended to remain compacted. If it calls flies, cover it with soil.

**Chemicals:** Do not put into the shallow hole any cosmetics, chemicals, paper or other items that may be treated with chemicals. Reserve this hole for organic materials only.

**Glass, plastic bottles & containers:** Save what you can use for your own storage use and give them away to others in your family, village, or church.

**“Volunteer” plants:** Often vegetable and fruit plants will sprout and grow in the enriched compost area, from seeds buried there. You can leave them and turn them into a little ready-made garden, or, if they are too thick or inconveniently placed, you can carefully transplant them to more suitable areas. Volunteer plants are not a nuisance, but an added blessing.