Small-scale compost making

1) Which materials can be used and at which ratio?

- **Green Material:**
  - 30%
  - Grass
  - Fresh green leaves
  - Waste fruit

- **Brown Material:**
  - 40%
  - Straw
  - Branches
  - Woodchips

- **Manure:**
  - 20%
  - Cow
  - Chicken
  - Horse

- **Conditioner:**
  - 10%
  - Clay
  - Old compost

2) How to build a compost pile?

- Start with a layer of the lightest/roughest material like straw
- Second layer is green fresh material followed by manure
- Always put wettest/heaviest material on top
- Repeat this sequence until a height of 1.25-1.5 meters is reached
- The ground area of the pile should be 2-3 meters width and at least 4 meter length
- Add water in between the layers (about 50 litres of water per 1m³ of input material)
- Compact the pile pile through “compost dance”
- When finished cover the pile with straw, big leaves or cotton sheets!! Don’t use plastic to cover the pile!!
- Turn the pile after the core temperature has been 60-70°C for 3 days. Turn again after 3 and 6 weeks while monitoring temperature and moisture

3) When is the compost finished? How to apply it?

- The compost is finished when
  - the core temperature is ambient
  - it has a granular structure and „soil“ odor
  - the „cress-test“ is positive ➔ test-plant grows/no weeds
  - 1 drop of water can be squeezed out of a handful of compost
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