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How to: Make leaf mould



Leaf mould is a rich and dark compost you can easily make to add to your soil.



You will need: Rakes, forks, fallen leaves and old compost sacks or similar.

1. To make leaf mould collect autumn leaves and tie them up in old compost bags. Stab the bags with a garden fork to let liquid drain off. It is important to use deciduous leaves and not evergreen leaves.



2. The pictures above show some of the leaves that are good to use. Can you name them?
3. From January apply a thick layer of last year's leaf mould to empty beds, it should look a bit like the middle picture above. This is called a mulch which is forked into the soil in spring. Do not apply leaf mould to frozen soil, it can trap the cold in, rather than keeping it out!
4. The end product looks a bit like the last picture shown at the top. Leaf mould is not as high in nutrients compared with ordinary compost but helps to improve the structure of soil, making it more crumbly and easy to grow in and is great for micro-organisms.



Deciduous

What's the
difference?



Evergreen