

**FARMER TO FARMER - PRACTICES FOR RESILIENCE SERIES**

# COMPOSTING ON THE ROCK

Composting is a great way of adding organic matter back into the soil, on the Rock of Polynesia or Niue. It also improves soil nutrient content and structure. A good compost must have proportions of carbon (brown materials), nitrogen (green materials), some moisture (water) and manure. Use only materials that are easily available to you as they do on The Rock.

## Step 1: Gathering the Browns and Greens



Gather some green (grass cuttings) and browns.



Reduce the size of leaves so it breaks down easily.

## Step 2: Mixing



Place both green and brown materials in a basket and mix them up. Because these materials are collected early in the morning, they have been moistened by dew.

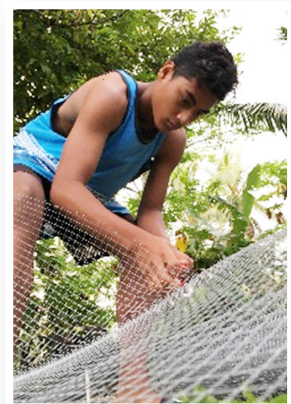
Fold in edges to give it some strength.



## Step 3: Enclosure



Cut a length of wire meshing, depending on the size of the enclosure you want. For this demonstration, a four-metre length was sufficient.



Wire strands will secure both ends of mesh in place

Make wire mesh stand and join ends together to create a circle/cylindrical shape.



### Step 4: Filling Wire Mesh

Dead banana leaves at base of cylinder and some pawpaw tree branches on top of it. Then pour on top of it the grass clippings and shredded breadfruit leaves mix. The pawpaw branches create space between the layers for aeration of the compost pile.



Banana Leaves first



Pawpaw branches

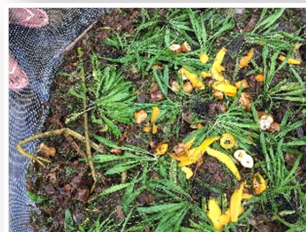


Grass clippings and breadfruit leaves

Add in some weeds.



Add kitchen organic waste.



### Step 5: Turning and Temperature

Turn the compost after two weeks. Keep it covered. Use a temperature gauge to measure the temperature of the compost. If the compost has been done right, the temperature should be between 49 to 60 degrees Celsius or higher. It shows the organic matter is being broken down.



Use a meter or your hand

This info sheet has been produced with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific Project and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) Youth Leading Learning in Resilience Agriculture Practices project in partnership with the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (PCETCom), the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Niue Organic Farmers Association (NIOFA).