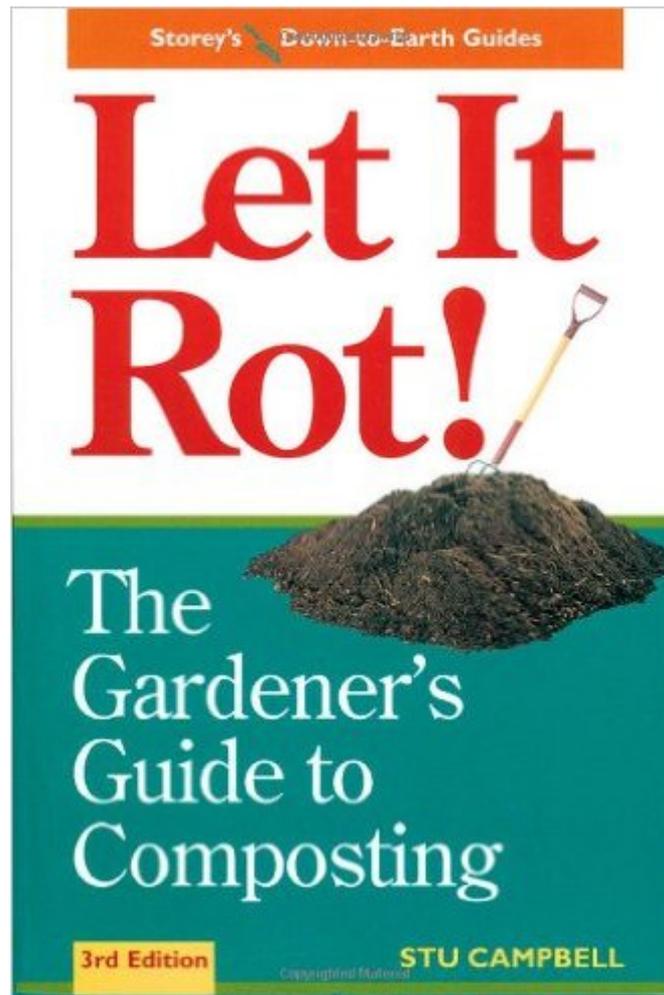


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# Let It Rot!: The Gardener's Guide To Composting (Third Edition) (Storey's Down-to-Earth Guides)



## Synopsis

Transform leaves, grass, and kitchen scraps into gardener's gold! This easy-to-use guide shows you how to turn household garbage and backyard refuse into nutrient-filled compost that can nourish your soil and promote a thriving garden. Stu Campbell provides an in-depth explanation of how composting works and offers clear instructions for a variety of both traditional and modern methods for successfully creating your own compost. You'll soon be saving money, minimizing waste, and enjoying bountiful harvests.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Composting, in case you aren't terribly familiar with it yet, is simply the practice of allowing waste matter to rot and decompose until it's fit to be tilled right into the soil. However, while the basic concept is as old as mother nature and often very easy to execute, it also helps to know more about it. What materials should you compost, and which should you avoid? Do you have to worry about animals or flies in your compost? How do you make sure your compost will turn into dirt and not a slimy, stinky sludge? While nearly every gardening book these days has a section on composting and most of these are enough to get you by, Stu Campbell's *Let It Rot!* is an entertaining, folksy and in-depth take on the art that will see you through nearly any foreseeable difficulty. I was certainly able to successfully compost with the simpler directions in other books, but there's information in here I wish I'd had back when I first started. For instance, now I know the cobweb-like stuff that I

feared was mold was the natural activity of Actinomycetes, a part-bacteria, part-fungus organism that aids decomposition in certain parts of a compost pile. Mr. Campbell's book also introduces a great many different types of compost piles and composters that you can use, depending on what you're trying to accomplish, what area you have to work with, or what you're trying to decompose. He also suggests many ways to use compost in and around your garden, and how to get the most out of it. I'm glad I picked up Mr. Campbell's book, because I learned an incredible amount of new material!

This is a great, clear cut, interesting and fun-to-read book! Stu Campbell is able to take what, to newcomers, can be a daunting task and not only present us with the basics to feel comfortable but he also translates some of the scientific "mumbo-jumbo" of how and why compost works into layman's terms. He includes real "recipes" and approaches to try as well as supplying a list (though not nearly complete) of good materials to compost as well as what NOT to use. A short "troubleshooting" chapter called "Things You Might Worry About a Little" is a bit over the top for beginners but is part of what makes this book valuable for the seasoned composter. *Let It Rot!* is a not-to-technical, well-written, easy-to-read guide that takes the "yuck" out of your composting ideas! Perfect for beginners and a great refresher for near professional composters.

There's more to composting than just sticking a bunch of dead things in a pile and waiting for it to rot - although that will work. It can be a virtual art form, and this book proves it. From building a compost container to adding the ingredients, this book leaves out nothing. Handy tips on speeding up the decomposition, encouraging worms, creating leaf-mold, using it once you've made it. You'll never look at an apple core quite the same way again. In this day and age with the emphasis placed heavily on recycling, this book provides heaps of how-to's in getting the most out of your waste.

I've been composting for about six months, as a completely ignorant amateur. I just piled up all of my lawn trimmings and vegetable kitchen scraps out next to the garden - it worked, but I needed to know more. Who knew I knew so little! I was avoiding putting things in my pile that belonged there. Layering, turning, components- I am now so ravenous for compostables I look at everything around me, and wonder how it'll rot. If you garden, you should compost. If you don't garden, you should compost. Early in the book Stu Campbell delivers the startling fact that you can cut 35% of your home's garbage weight, merely by composting. To relieve the burden you place on the planet, for that reason alone, you should do what you can. If you're investigating permaculture- a compost pile

is a necessary part of your home ecology.

This book was ok. I like that it tells you what you can and cannot specifically compost. It also has directions in case you want to build a compost yourself, along with the various types of composting styles used. If you're only interested in the essentials of composting, I did find a .pdf file that was extremely helpful. To locate it, I searched : essentials of composting guide and selected the link from the City of Davis. But the book is rather handy if you need to reference something right quick.

I very much enjoyed this book because it laid out the basics for the beginner, explained a small bit of the science, gave the list of do's and don'ts, and didn't get too technical for me. I really wanted to begin composting and had no idea where to start because there were so many options. This book helped me decide which was the best of the choices for my lifestyle, yard size, and abilities. Well worth it for the beginner looking for information.

This book is an easy, entertaining, read. It has great information about what to compost, why compost and describes various types of composters along with their benefits and drawbacks. It also offers great practical advice on improving your soil, where to find compostable materials, and where to locate your composter. This is a good choice for beginners and those who just want to learn more about composting, I would highly recommend this book.

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