

Pfeiffer™ BD Compost Starter

JPI is the owner of this proprietary formula as well as the “Pfeiffer” trademark (for agriculture) as given by the Pfeiffer Foundation.

The Pfeiffer™ Biodynamic (BD) Compost Starter creates healthy, effective humus-laden compost from a wide spectrum of organic materials from yard, wood, and industrial waste to ordinary food scraps from the kitchen. It is unequalled in its composting effect, yielding a rapid breakdown of material. Following such breakdowns, this compost starter stimulates an effective build-up or transformation of the original material into helpful humus compounds.

Composition of The Pfeiffer™ BD Compost Starter

This potent Compost Starter contains the biodynamic agricultural preparations BD #500, #502, #503, #504, #505, #506, and #507, which give this product its unique effectiveness. It also contains a concentrated mixture of several cultivated strains of beneficial soil bacteria, enzymes, fungi, and plant growth promoting factors. Properly prepared for use, each ounce can yield more than 1.36 billion CFU's (colony forming units) of beneficial organisms.¹ Although the BD Compost Starter contains cow manure as one of its ingredients, laboratory tests on it were found to be negative for E-Coli O157, Listeria, and Salmonella.²

Benefits of The Pfeiffer™ BD Compost Starter

Under proper conditions of moisture, aeration, and organic matter (as given in the Carbon/Nitrogen ratio below), the BD Compost Starter will:

- Quickly decompose raw organic matter, breaking it down into simpler compounds
- Re-assemble these simple compounds into complex long-lasting humus
- Fix nitrogen from the air and otherwise make it available for plant nutrition
- Increase the availability of minerals, transforming them into their available form
- Hold the soil and improve its structure
- Prevent leaching and washing away of soil, and lessen or eliminate erosion

The special humus producing character of the BD Compost Starter yields high quality compost full of beneficial soil organisms and colloidal humus. Benefits include:

- Improved soil structure. Soil is easier to prepare and cultivate
- Improved water drainage. Water more readily is absorbed and penetrates deeper.
- Root growth is stimulated.
- Nitrogen release is steady and without losses.
- Nutrients are preserved and made available. Absorption of nutrients is facilitated.
- Health soil micro-life is fostered and maintained.

How To Use the Pfeiffer™ BD Compost Starter

Assemble all ingredients intended for composting, observing a C/N ratio between 15:1 and 25:1. Remove the soil to a depth of the shovel from the area where the pile is to be placed. And set soil aside for use in building the compost pile and for covering it later.

¹ Tested by MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC., 13611 B. Street, Omaha NE 68144

² Ibid.

Begin the first layer using heavier materials such as weed or plant stalks. This allows for better drainage and air circulation through the compost pile. Build up each layer using same sequence of materials up to a height of four to five feet. A suggested sequence of layers is as follows: 3-6inches of straw, leaves, weeds or other vegetable matter; an inch of hen manure or bedding from the barn – urine saturated straw, hay, or even wood chips can be placed in this manure category; then, an inch or so of topsoil. Soil with sandy texture can be somewhat thicker, while clay soil should be applied in a somewhat thinner layer. Finally, sprinkle a little lime. For grass clippings and other fresh vegetation, lime is highly recommended. If the pile will have a substantial manure component, lime may be omitted.

The activated and diluted BD Compost Starter (as given in the directions below) is to be sprinkled or sprayed evenly on each layer as the pile is constructed. The potent bacteria, enzymes, and other beneficial organisms in the BD Compost Starter will multiply by the billions as the compost matures. As the compost pile rises to a height of 4 to 5 feet, each layer should be built slightly smaller than the one below, allowing the pile to slope slightly inward toward the top. The top is hollowed out slightly to catch moisture from rain and snow. The exterior of the compost heap should be covered with a skin of soil, peat, straw, or hay to prevent the pile from losing moisture from excessive sun or wind. In large-scale operations, appropriate row cover material may be used.

IMPORTANT: If the job has to be interrupted, be sure that the solution gets thoroughly mixed and stirred again before subsequent use. Interruption of a few hours or overnight will not reduce the effectiveness. However, letting the solution stand several days will definitely alter its quality, potency, and ultimately the results. The BD Compost Starter has been dried without doing harm to its ingredients. As long as the product is kept dry and stored in a cool place (not refrigerated), avoiding exposure to direct sunlight, its shelf life will be approximately 9 months to 2 years.

Directions for Activating and Using the Dried Pfeiffer™ BD Compost Starter

One unit (one ounce) of BD Compost Starter is sufficient for approximately 1 to 1.5 tons (or 1.5 to 2.25 cubic yards) of material. One unit is the smallest quantity we can ship. One ton will be a cube of material measuring on average 4.5' x 4.5' x 4.5' for most materials intended for composting. Activation of one rounded tablespoon (1 Tbsp.) should be sufficient for ½ to ¾ of a ton.

Moisten the BD Compost Starter in a flat pan or dish with just enough water to keep it moist and pasty. It will take a few minutes to get the powder moist; then it will absorb readily so that you may need to moisten it once more. Then allow the moistened Compost Starter to activate for appropriately 12 to 16 hours or overnight. Dilute the resultant paste-like substance in the desired quantity of water needed to thoroughly treat each layer of your compost pile. (It is immaterial whether this dilution is done with 5 or more gallons of water, just so each unit will adequately moisten the material in the pile up to one ton for each unit. You can use as much water per unit as it needed to accomplish the task.)

For small amounts of materials, such as kitchen garbage and table scraps: if you use the BD Compost Starter in a pepper shaker and sprinkle it on the garbage as it leaves the kitchen, the material will be rendered inoffensive and of less interest to dogs and other curious creatures. This technique also allows the composting process to begin almost immediately. Only activate the amount needed for smaller applications. The remaining product must be kept dry and away from exposure to light. If adding fresh green matter such as grass clippings to a pile, it is advisable to sprinkle such materials with a small amount of lime to capture the nitrogen content more effectively for the compost pile. Ensure that all materials added to the pile have sufficient moisture (50%+).