Troubleshoot your compost

Composting cooked food using a turning system

**Compost too Dry**
- Static system i.e. bin / box?
- In turning system?
- Is it dry?
- Mainly raw food?
- Mainly cooked food?
- Water well. Rainwater is best. Then leave or remix with fresh green stuff. 
- Dry compost may have fungal spores. 
- Water before you dig it out and use a face mask. 
- Monitor moisture levels regularly.
- Mix in more fresh green stuff. 
- Lessen wood chips or pellets. 
- Turn more.

**Compost too Cold**
- Is it dry?
- Is it wet?
- Add dry wood chips/pellets. Turn more.

**Compost Smelly**
- Mainly raw food?
- Mainly cooked food?
- Add raw food or other fresh greens to add micro-organisms which will break it all down. Turn more.

**Compost too Wet**
- Add cardboard and or scrunched paper to absorb moisture. 
- Add dry wood chips/pellets. Turn more. 
- Avoid liquids or sloppy food, soup, gravy, custard etc. 
- Leave in a bucket with holes in, inside a second bucket to drain excess liquids. 
- Catch liquid in a tray. Dilute with plenty of water eg.10:1. Use as plant food or add to dry compost. 

**Oozing Gunk**
- Do not leave fruit waste festering. 
- Add daily to compost and regularly wash caddies. 
- Clean food input area to remove any residue. 
- Add dry wood chips or pellets. Turn composter more. 
- Clean out and dry caddies, line with newspaper.

**Flies**
- Small fruit flies?
- Large blow flies?
- Avoid cooked food for a while and reintroduce gradually.

Remember the Compost Mantra: Food - Water - Air – Warmth

www.dccn.org.uk

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