

# Factors Influencing the Rate of Composting I

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## Abstract

Earthworm and certain chemicals i.e. sodium bicarbonate and calcium oxide were used to accelerate composting. There was no difference in the amount of carbon dioxide evolved from the compost containing earthworms compared with ordinary compost. However, physical examination revealed that decomposition of plant debris (the main component of the compost) proceeded at a higher rate than that of the compost without earthworms, reaching 50% within the same period. The compost in which B<sub>2</sub> (microbial accelerator) and earthworms were added had the highest decomposition rate.

Sodium bicarbonate accelerated composting more than calcium oxide. The amount of carbon dioxide generated increased during the first week and reached the maximum in the fourth week. The maximum level of carbon dioxide in the compost with calcium oxide added occurred in the seventh week.