

[Method of Making Oil Compost]

Date: 1790/04/02

Publication Format

Print

Type

Agriculture

Ingredients

potash

water

coarse train oil

sand

salt

mould

Places

York

Doncaster

Nova Scotia

Yorkshire

Belfield

England

Source: Nova Scotia Magazine

Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm | **Reference:** Microfilm Reels 8062, 8063

Description

A description of how to make compost, followed by three experiments with the recipe. nn.254_55. Microfilm Reel 8062.

Transcription

METHOD OF MAKING OIL-COMPOST

[*From the same.*]

TAKE North-American pot-ash 12lb.

Break it into small pieces, and put

it into a convenient vessel with 4 gallons

of water. Let the mixture stand 48 hours,

then add coarse train oil, 14 gallons. --In a

few days the salt will be dissolved, and the

mixture, upon stirring will become nearly uniform. -- Take 14 bushels of sand, or 20 of dry mould. Upon these pour the above liquid ingredients. Turn this composition frequently over, and in six months it will be fit for use.

When the liquid ingredients are put to one or two hogsheads of water, a liquid compost will be formed which must be used with a water-cart. I apprehend that the above quantity will be sufficient for an acre; my trials, however, do not give me

sufficient authority to determine on this point.

For the convenience of carriage, I have directed no more earth to be used than will effectually take up the liquid ingredients. But if the farmer chuses to mix up the compost with the mould of his field, I would advise him to use a larger portion of earth, as he will be thereby enabled to distribute it with more regularity upon the surface.

I shall here observe, that the oil compost is only intended to supply the place of rape-dust, soot, woolen rags, and other expensive hand dressings. It is in all respects inferiour to rotten dung: where that can be obtained every kind of manure must give place to it.

ON THE OIL-COMPOST. BY MR. ROEBUCK, GARDENER, IN YORK.

[From the same.]

IN the month of May I planted twelve alleys that lay between my asparagus-beds with cauliflower-plants. Each alley took up about 30 plants. One of the alleys I set apart for an experiment with the oil compost, which was prepared accord-

[page break]

ing to the directions given in the first volume of the Georgical Essays.

About a handful of the compost was put to the root of each cauliflower plant. In all respects the alley was managed like the rest. The plants in general flowered

very well, but those to which I applied the compost, sprung up hastily with small stalks, and produced very poor flowers. I imputed this unfavourable appearance to the freshness of the compost, which was only a few weeks old. In all future trials I shall expose it to the action of the air, to abate the heat and neutralize the acrimony of the salt.--In the September following, I planted the same alleys with early cabbages. The necessity for meliorating the compost was in this trial fully confirmed, for the cabbages that grew up the alley, which in May had received the compost, were larger, and in all respects, finer than the others.*

ON THE SAME. BY JAMES STOVIN, ESQ. OF DONCASTER.

[*From the same.*]

IN the year 1769, I made the following experiment with the oil compost, which was prepared agreeable to the directions given in these essay.

	Expence / Produce		
	L. s. D.	/	qrs. bush. pk
One acre sown with barley and manured with oil-compost,	0 18 0	/	5 5 0
One acre adjoining sown with barley, and manured with rotten dung, twelve boads, worth	3 0 0	/	4 3 2
Difference			<hr/> 1 1 2

The compost barley was bolder and better corn than the other. In the year 1770, the dunged acre produced of rye three quarters. The compost acre, of ditto, two quarters six bushels. In the year 1771, the same lands were sown with oats, and the produce was greatly in favour of the dunged acre. This last experiment being contrary to the idea of good husbandry was made with a view to determine the *absolute* strength of the compost. All

top-dressings are exhausted in the year.
The oil-compost seems to retain its vigour
longer.

ON THE SAME. BY RICHARD TOWNLEY, ESQ. OF BELFIELD
[From the same.]

IN the spring 1770, I prepared a piece of
ground for onions. It was laid out in-
to six beds of equal size and all sown at
the same time. Over two of them the
oil-compost was scattered in a very mode-
rate quantity. Over other two pigeon-
dung. And over the remaining two, some
of my weed compost, which I esteem one
of the best manures that can be made.

The onions came up well in all the beds;
but, in about six weeks, those that were
fed by the oil-compost plainly distinguish-
ed the advantage they had over the rest, by
their luxuriancy and colour; and, at the
end of the summer perfected the finest
crop that I had ever seen, being greatly
superiour to the others both in quantity
and size.

I also tried the oil-compost upon car-
rots, and it answered exceedingly well. I
did the same in the year 1771, both upon
them and my onions; and had the finest
crops of those vegetables I ever saw any
where upon the same compass of ground.

EXPERIMENTS

Annotations

others.*

[in original]* It appears by several other experiments that this compost requires to often turn-ed and exposed to their air before it is used; or if new, will only admit of being feat-tered over the surface of the ground. When too fresh, and mixed with the earth, or buried under it, as in the foregoing experiment, it generally proves injurious.

Method of Making Oil Compost recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/47>