



Recipe #3

The Great Slave Garden

1 wheelbarrow	Mineral Soil
2 - 3 pails	Finished Compost
0 - 1/2 pail	Yard Waste
0 - 1/2 pail	Food Waste
0 - 1 cups	Wood Ash
	Water

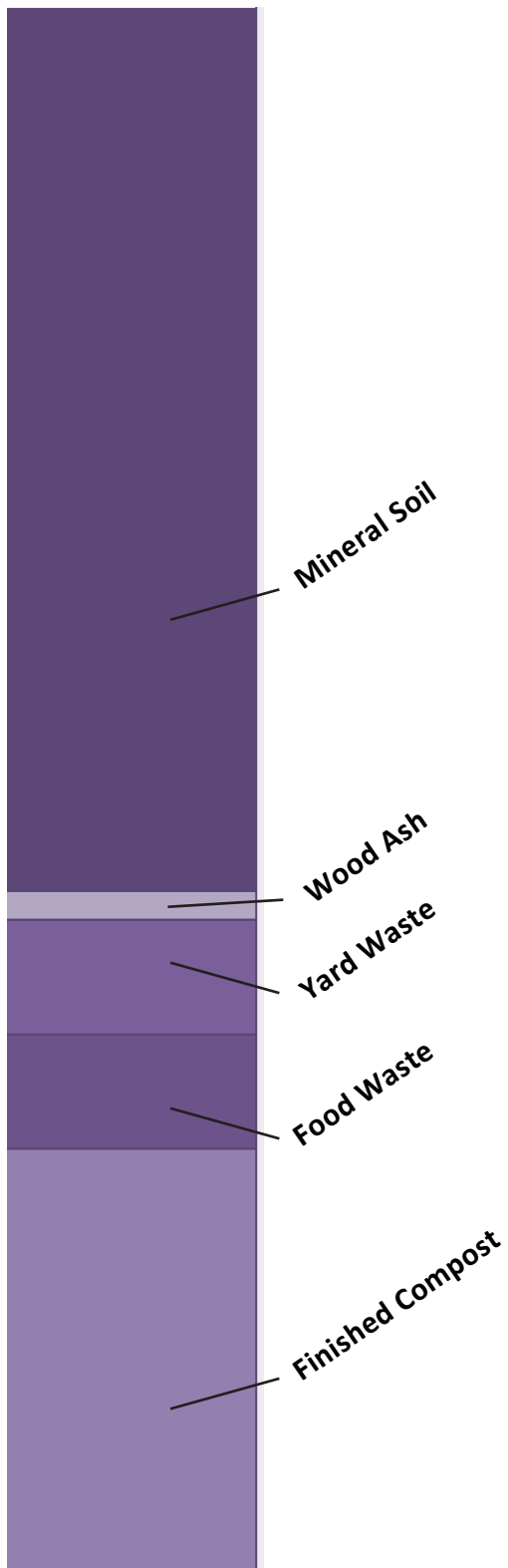


This is a very simple recipe for those who want soil immediately. It requires a source of finished compost, like that available from the City of Yellowknife, as a source of nutrients and carbon.

By mixing mineral soil or existing topsoil with this compost at a rough 3:1 ratio, you will create a quality soil for growing in your backyard.

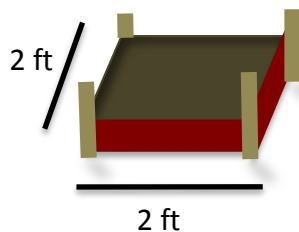
- Gather mineral soil or sand that is rich in organic matter, loose and dark. This may be existing soil from your garden, bagged soil, or bulk soil.
- Mix in compost.
- Add water and turn the soil until it feels moist like a wrung out sponge.
- Food waste and yard waste (leaves, needles, green plants, garden trimmings, grass clippings), are optional, and will take several months to fully break down. If added in the fall the result will be better soil in the spring. Finished compost provides an inoculum of helpful microbes that will help break down the other materials.
- By excluding yard waste and food waste from this recipe, you can make soil that is ready to plant in immediately.
- Wood ash should only be included if you know your mineral soil is acidic.
- Mix this soil into existing gardens or fill raised beds or pots.



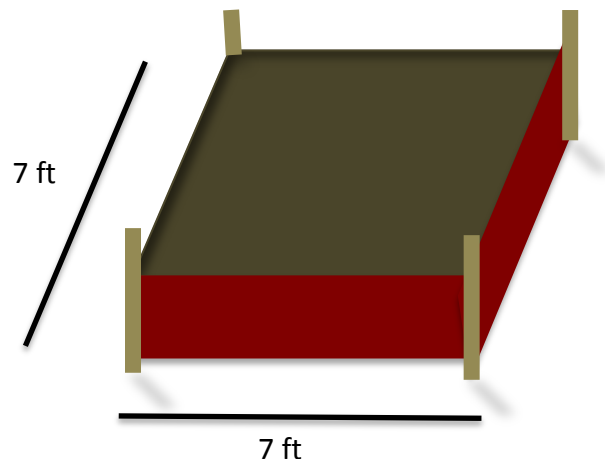


How Much Soil Do You Need?

Bed Size:
(1 ft depth)



The recipe on the front of this card is enough for a garden bed of this size.



Make ten times as much for a garden bed of this size.

Tips for Success!

- Making soil is not a science, so don't worry if you don't have the right ingredients! Use what you have available. Just make sure you have a source of nutrients (if you don't have fish, replace it with something that has lots of nutrients).
- If finished compost is unavailable, other nutrient rich materials like manure, hair, fish, and bone meal can be substituted.
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup bone meal is an excellent additional fertilizer for this recipe to ensure there is lots of phosphorus and calcium in the soil.
- Be sure to test your soil pH. Some soils are highly basic and wood ash should not be added to these soils. Don't use ash from pellet stoves, as it can be high in contaminants.
- Soil in the NWT will get very dry if you don't water it, so make sure to keep your pile moist.

Tips for Sustainable Harvest!

- Making soil from local materials is more sustainable than importing it from somewhere else. No matter where you are in the NWT, you can find the basic building blocks of soil!
- Be aware of where you are harvesting materials, especially when using a loader or heavy machinery. Peatlands, wetlands, rivers and lakes are very sensitive to disturbance. Care should be taken to disturb these areas as little as possible.
- Giving back to the land is an important traditional and ecological practice. Treat animal materials with respect and use in garden soil only if it is both culturally and personally appropriate for you.