



LEAF MOULD

Equipment needed

- Leaves. Oak, beech and hornbeam are best but many others can be used. Evergreens such as holly are better added to the compost heap as they are slow to rot down.
- Something to hold the leaves. An old plastic sack or bin bag is fine. Alternatively you can make a bin from chicken wire.

What to do

- Gather your leaves as they fall from the trees. Try to avoid any that might be polluted or contaminated with litter e.g. from beside a busy road.
- Thick leaves, such as chestnut and sycamore, should be shredded to speed up the process.
- Put the leaves into your sack. Moisten if they are dry.
- Pierce holes in the sack with a knife or a garden fork.
- Tie loosely and leave out of sight for a couple of years.

How to use it

- Good quality leaf mould can be used as seed-sowing compost, or mixed equally with garden compost and good quality soil for use as potting compost.
- Leaf mould that is less than two years old can be used as mulch, soil improver, autumn top-dressing for lawns, or winter covering for bare soil.

Possible problems

- Can become infested with weeds, so do not use where this might be a problem.
- If it is slow to rot down then try turning it and ensuring it is kept moist.