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To be self-sufficient in bio-inputs.

DATE
21/10/2026

Bocashi

Biopreparation type: Soil conditioners • Preparation method: Other • Commercialized bio-input

INGREDIENTS

For a pile of approximately 1 m³ (approximate quantities): 1 part fresh manure (cattle, horse, or poultry); 1 part topsoil; 1 part chopped plant residues (straw, stubble, grass clippings, leaves); 10 to 15 kg of wheat bran; 2 to 4 kg of molasses or sugar, dissolved in the watering solution; 10 to 20 kg of wood ash; 10 to 20 kg of crushed charcoal (optional); a few shovelfuls of bocashi from a previous batch or mature compost (optional); water, to achieve a moisture content of 35 to 45%.

PREPARATION PROCESS

1) On a flat, sheltered surface, spread the ingredients in successive layers, then mix them with a shovel. 2) Gradually sprinkle the molasses-water mixture over the pile while mixing: a tight handful should hold together in a clump without any water dripping out. 3) Form a pile no more than 1.4 m high and 2.5 m wide, and cover it with a breathable tarp or straw. 4) Day 1: The temperature rises to about 65 °C within about fifteen hours; if it exceeds 65 °C, turn the pile over to aerate and cool it. 5) Days 2 and 3: Turn the pile twice a day (morning and evening, up to three times if necessary) to maintain a temperature between 55 and 65 °C; each turning reduces the temperature by about 10 °C. 6) Days 4 through 14: Turn the pile once a day, aiming for a temperature of 40 to 50 °C, and gradually reduce the height of the pile. 7) Around the 15th day, the pile returns to room temperature and turns gray: the bocashi is stabilized.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Shovel and pitchfork. Probe thermometer (for compost). Watering can or hose. Breathable tarp or straw to cover the pile. Flat, sheltered area.

TIPS

A bad odor indicates too much water or a lack of oxygen: turn the pile more often and add dry material. Do not let the temperature exceed 65 °C. Do not pack down or seal the pile: the process is aerobic. Store the bocashi in the shade, away from rain, and use it within the next few months.

RESULTS DESCRIPTION

Organic soil amendment produced through accelerated aerobic composting: frequent turning supplies oxygen to the microorganisms already present in manure, soil, and plant residues. In about three weeks, a stabilized, gray organic material with a forest floor scent is produced, which can be used like mature compost.

PRODUCT OBTAINED

Stabilized organic matter, gray in color, crumbly, with the scent of the forest floor, similar to mature compost.

SOURCE / REFERENCE

INTA (Argentina) – Dibella E., Aguilera P., Silva Furlani N. (2021). Elaboración de abono orgánico Bocashi. Construcción de tecnologías apropiadas. INTA Ediciones, CIPAF-IPAF Cuyo, ISBN 978-987-679-306-3. Método Aerobocashi (aerobocashi.fr); López, Juanfran (2022). The Biofertiliser Manual, 2nd edition. www.juanfranlopez.com; SADER and INIFAP (2021). Manuales prácticos para la elaboración de bioinsumos, no. 8: Bocashi (in Spanish). Technical Support Strategy, Mexican Ministry of Agriculture; Prybys, Grégory. Field technical notes (in French); Garro Alfaro, J. E. (2016). El suelo y los abonos orgánicos (in Spanish). INTA Costa Rica, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Chilean Ministry of the Environment, GEF Montaña project and INDAP (2021). Manual de bioinsumos para biofábrica (in Spanish).