

Home & Garden

Disposer complements composting for effective waste management

You can improve your garden and the environment by pairing composting and a food waste disposer to create an effective home waste-management system. Food waste disposers are the natural complement to composting. In fact, when used in conjunction with composting and recycling, disposers can create an effective home waste-management system, allowing

for a minimal amount of waste to enter the local waste stream. Disposers effectively and conveniently eliminate those food wastes which, experts say, should be avoided in back yard composts. These include meat and fish scraps, dairy products and oily and fatty foods, because they can attract pests and putrefy in poorly maintained composting systems.

Slow or cold composting is the simplest method because it requires minimal work and can be an open pile with new material simply added to the top. It is not advised for composting food scraps, however, since wastes degrade slowly unless they

are mixed and aerated. This method is recommended instead for composting yard trimmings. Finished compost is not usually produced for up to two years.

Producing finished compost in as little as six weeks, the fast or hot composting method requires that materials be composted in the correct carbon and nitrogen proportions. Due to microbial activity, a properly constructed hot compost pile will heat up rapidly. It requires frequent mixing to aerate the pile and control its moisture content. Food scraps should be buried in the central and hottest portion of the pile, rather than just thrown on top. Unless it is meticulously constructed and maintained, a hot pile can revert to a much slower composting system with the possibility of offensive odors and unwanted pests.

Food waste disposers can be a big help to homeowners in creating a manageable home waste-management system, since they eliminate all types of biodegradable organic food wastes, including those that can't be composted.

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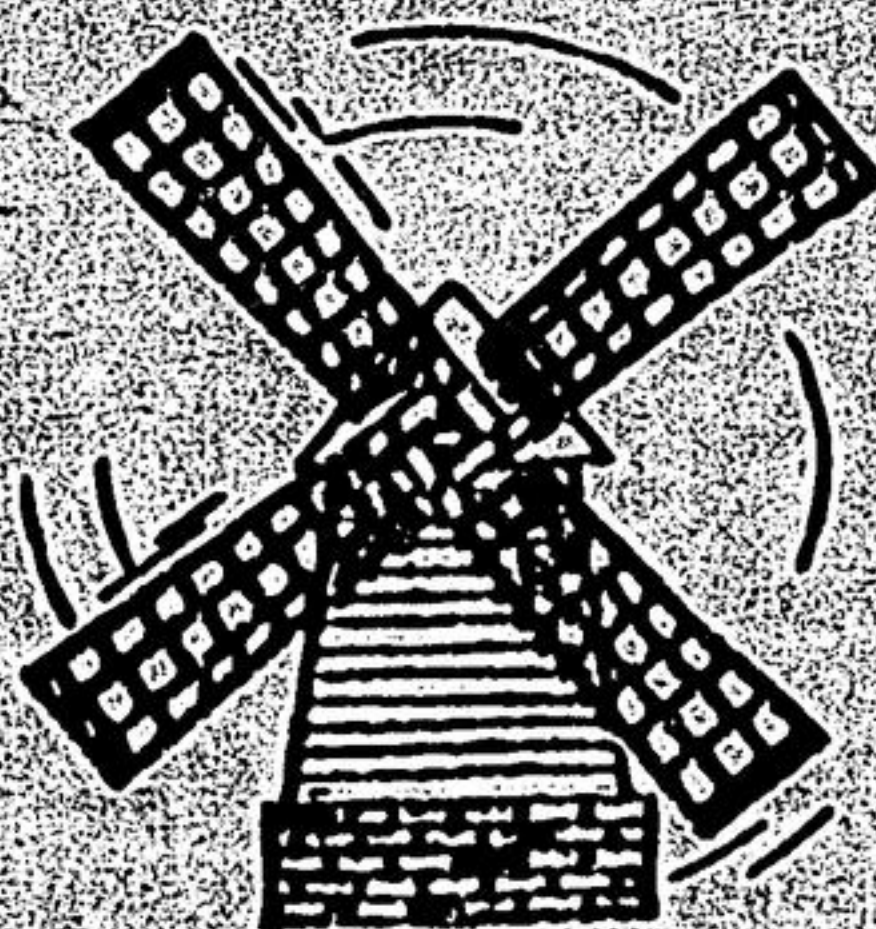
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