

Learning the Basics about Bokashi Composting



process to ferment kitchen waste, including meat and dairy, into a safe soil builder and nutrient-rich tea for your plants," she said.

What is Bokashi? Bokashi is a Japanese word that means "fermented organic matter." In Bokashi composting, kitchen scraps of all kinds — including meat and dairy products banned from aerobic systems — are mixed with some of the inoculated bran, pressed into the Bokashi bucket, covered with another handful of bran, and tightly covered. When the bucket is full, it is sealed shut and set aside for ten to twelve days. Every other day during that time, the leachate that is an inevitable byproduct of anaerobic composting needs to be drawn off.

When the bucket is opened, the contents, though recognizable, are thoroughly pickled. At this stage, the "pre-compost" can be buried in a fallow spot in the garden. Find out more about Bokashi. Wynnee Goh will be at the USJ14 Kebun Komuniti on May 1 at 9am to give a more thorough step-by-step guide on Bokashi.

Read more about Bokashi here <https://www.planetnatural.com/composting-101/indoor-composting/bokashi-composting/>

AVID gardeners in Subang Jaya got a special treat last month when Bokashi composting expert Wynnee Goh dropped in at the USJ14 Kebun Komuniti to share some tips on how to start turning kitchen waste into something useful for the garden. During her 45mins session Wynnee gave basic tips on the do's and don'ts of composting kitchen waste; how to make your own compost starter and also how to use the juices from the compost.

"Bokashi composting is an anaerobic



Gurdwara Celebrates First Anniversary

GURDWARA Sahib Subang celebrated its first Anniversary last month with a modest gathering at the temple in SS13 for devotees. Prayers were held before everyone gathered at the dining hall for lunch. ADUN Subang Jaya Michelle Ng was present to join the devotees for photo sessions and thereafter lunch as well.



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Everyone's got a Secret Garden somewhere in the little corner of their home. Gardening has opened up new horizons for those who want to put their green fingers to good use. Starting this month, SJ Echo will be featuring useful tips on Plants & Gardens for you. You can also follow our Facebook Group: SJGardens and share your photos and stories.

IMPORTANCE OF LIMING AND ADDING ORGANIC MATTER TO OUR GARDEN SOILS

by Christopher Teh Boon Sung, Fac. of Agriculture, Uni. Putra Malaysia, Serdang (chris@upm.edu.my)



Proper management of our garden soils is one of the most important factors to having a healthy garden. Soil management is very important because soils in Malaysia are generally not fertile. Our soils are generally very acidic, contain low amounts of organic matter, and have weak retention of plant nutrients.

That our soils are very acidic is important, because, at these acidic levels, many nutrients in the soil are unavailable for the plants to uptake. Our soils also have high levels of iron and aluminum which in turn fix (that is, make unavailable) another very important plant nutrient, phosphorus.

And that our soils also have weak retention of nutrients carry serious implications. It means the fertilizers, particularly liquid fertilizers, we apply to our soils are very susceptible to be lost via leaching. Leaching is the washing away of nutrients from the soil due to excess water (whether by heavy rainfall or over-watering).

The good news is, with proper management, our soils can be made to be very fertile. Two of the most important steps we can do are to apply lime and organic matter. Liming is the application of calcium- and magnesium-rich materi-

als. Liming helps to make the soil less acidic, which in turn, make more nutrients available to our plants. Fortunately, liming materials are commonly sold, at affordable prices, at most nurseries and hardware stores. Lime should be applied at about 600 g per square meter ground area (or about a tablespoon for a pot 30 cm wide). Apply lime about two to three times a year.

Addition of organic matter is also essential because organic matter improves virtually all soil properties, including making our soils less acidic and supplying nutrients to our plants. Do not apply too much organic matter at any one time as they can choke our plants. Instead, apply no more than 4 to 8 kg per square meter ground area. Any type of organic matter can be used (except for animal wastes which require proper pre-treatment first), such as composts and garden wastes (like leaf litter, twigs, or grass cuttings). Reapply the organic matter only when you see very little of the organic matter remaining on the soil surface.

There are of course many other practices in good soil management, but liming and addition of organic matter are the two most important and basic steps we can do for our soils.