



Garden Notes

GN 162

COMPOST SIFTER BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS

Sifting separates finished from unfinished compost. Finished compost can be used as a soil amendment or mulch, and the unfinished compost can be returned to the working compost pile. The sifter, described below, fits over a standard wheelbarrow and makes sifting easy.

Tools

- Wire snips
- Drill with screw bits

Materials

- ½" hardware cloth, 24" x 29"
- Wood glue
- 3— 1" x 2" x 8' redwood or cedar boards cut as follows:
2 @ 21" 2 @ 24" 2 @ 26½" 2 @ 29½"
- 24— 1¼" deck or drywall screws

Step 1

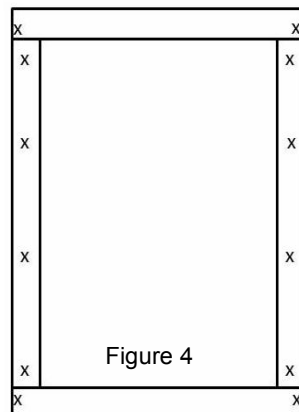
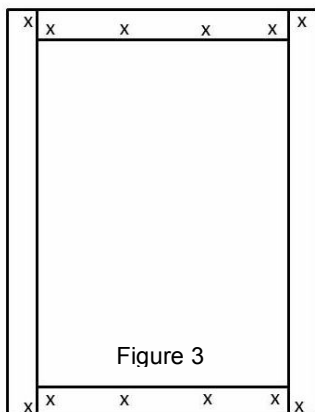
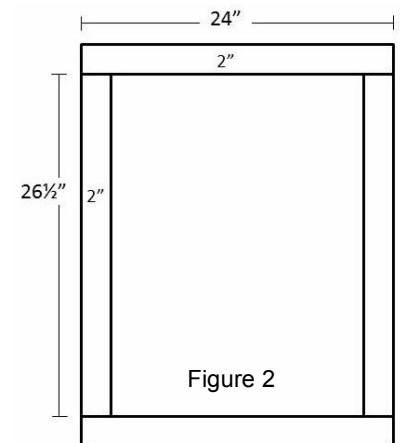
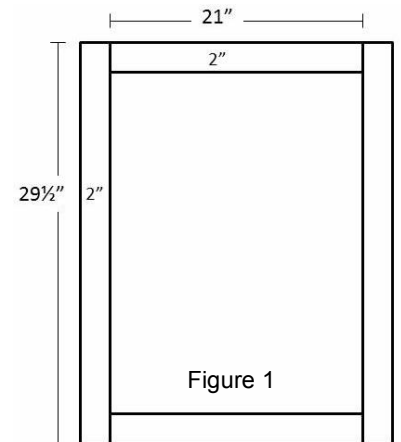
- Snip hardware cloth into a 24" x 29" piece, cutting off any sharp ends.

Step 2

- Assemble wood pieces on a work table as shown in Figure 1.
- Lay hardware cloth over the wood strips, making sure the edges of the hardware cloth are sitting on the wood.
- Squeeze glue in corners and along the wood pieces.
- Lay the remaining wood pieces (Figure 2) over the hardware cloth.

Step 3

- On the side facing up, screw in the pattern in Figure 3. Then flip over and screw in pattern in Figure 4.



Take care not to have corner screws overlap. Double screws in the corners control torque from the weight of the compost. Allow glue to dry for 24 hours before using the sifter.

An L bracket can be used to secure the corners, instead of the corner screws. The L brackets will ensure stability while sifting.

June 2016. Revised by UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County, Compost Education Project.