



UTILIZATION OF OXYGEN QUANTITY AS A COMPOST QUALITY INDICATOR

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ABSTRACT: It is known that the compost plays an affective role in enhancing soil fertility, consequently, plant growth and crops yield, so it is very important to the farmers to get compost has a good quality and distinguished properties. Therefore this study was carried out to investigate the effect of the amount of the oxygen (air) required to convert one Kg of lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes and turnip plant straw into compost. It was found that there is a relationship between the amount of oxygen and the weight of organic matter which refers to using the amount of O₂ as an indicator to the good quality of manufactured compost. In this study, carbon ratio and hydrogen ratio in straw of lettuce, tomato, potato and turnip vegetables and the amount of oxygen (air) required to convert one kilogram of straw into compost was measured. The most important results were that the greater the amount of oxygen used in the fermentation of raw materials, the greater the amount of organic matter, consequently increasing the quality of compost. The amount of oxygen used in the fermentation of raw materials was high for the potato fodder (6.20 kg) and the amount of organic matter (813 g) while the amount of oxygen required was less in the leaves of the Lettuce plant (4.69 kg) and organic matter (670 g). Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the amount of oxygen required to obtain good compost by knowing the amount of air that is needed to oxidize the organic waste, which is consists all mostly from the hydrocarbon chain (carbon and hydrogen).

Key words: Amount of oxygen, quality of compost, organic carbon, and organic matter.

INTRODUCTION

Compost is one of the most valuable resources for beautifying landscape. The leaves rake, the grass mow, and the branches you trim are some of the ingredients we can use to make compost (Dessalegn *et al.*, 2012).

Finished compost is dark and has a pleasant smell. It is produced when organic matter such as garden, lawn, and kitchen waste is broken down by bacteria and fungi. Use compost throughout landscape: dig it into gardens and flower beds, add it to the soil when renovating lawn, or put it through a sieve and use it in potting soil (Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 2004).

Compost loosens clay soils and helps sandy soils retain water. Adding compost improves soil

fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants. The organic matter provided in compost provides food for microorganisms, which keeps the soil in a healthy, balanced condition. Nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus will be produced naturally by the feeding of microorganisms, so few if any soil amendments will need to be added (Liang *et al.*, 2016)

Most gardeners have long understood the value of this rich, dark, earthy material in improving the soil and creating a healthful environment for plants (Cooperband, 2012).

Understanding how to make and use compost is in the public interest, as the problem of waste disposal climbs toward a crisis level (Eklind and Kirchmann, 2013).

Landfills are brimming, and new sites are not likely to be easily found. For this reason there is

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an interest in conserving existing landfill space and in developing alternative methods of dealing with waste (Fabrizzi *et al.*, 2009).

A quality standard for compost called PAS100 is given to sites that can demonstrate that they have a high level of control over the inputs and composting process, and that the resulting compost meets strict quality criteria (Jones and O'Hara, 2012).

Good quality compost will then be used for a wide range of different applications, including agriculture, local parks and in floral displays in public spaces (European Compost Network, 2010).

Mixing compost into soil can help to keep the soil pH in a favourable range, but only if the current soil pH isn't far from the optimum level (Provenzano *et al.*, 2011).

In order to obtain the quality of this compost, the amount of oxygen to be added to each residue of waste shall be determined according to the percentage of carbon and the hydrogen content of the residue, taking into account the water content of the moisture as well as the percentage of oxygen found in the component (Brinton, 2014).

The respiration test is a relative indicator only of maturity, to be used in conjunction with other physical, chemical, and microbiological measurements to determine the maturity of compost for using

On the other hand, maturity is defined as the condition where compost poses no adverse effects on plants and is determined empirically using bioassays (Marschner and Bunemann, 2008).

In view of the larger number of variables, industry standards for determining maturity are more numerous than those for stability. The decomposition needed to reach maturity varies with the type of plant grown and the particular agricultural or horticultural practice employed. The crop's nutrients needs, resistance to disease, and the time between compost spreading and the crop planting all affect the decomposition needed for compost to reach maturity (Mohammadi and Torkashvand, 2010).

Using these definitions, it follows that compost which is mature is likely also to be stable. Yet stable compost may not always be at

a level of maturity adequate for use as a medium for growing a certain species of plant (Jeong and Kim, 2001).

The objective of this research was to study of obtain in high quality of compost during composting by standard and limited of amount of oxygen as an indicator of compost production.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Composting Preparation

This experiment was conducted at the farm of the Soil Salinity and Alkalinity Research Laboratory at Sabahia Farm in Alexandria Governorate. At least a partially protected spot from the rain was chosen. Vegetable straw of (lettuce, tomato, potato, Turnip) was collected and brought to the preparation site. A layer of vegetable residue (15 cm) was first worked and then another layer of material is placed in the same sequence and replicated until a height of about 1 m is reached from the straw inside the boxes.

The water is added to the straw until it is wet enough and water is added regularly. The straw was mixed using a hatching fork after 3 weeks, then again after five weeks; harvesting compost was made after 100 days. Straw of this vegetables were composted in Four (1 m³) perforated plastic boxes for 100 day as aerobic conditions. The material was turned for 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 70, 80 and 100 days. Samples (one Kg) were taken, dried at 65°C, passed after grinding through a 0.2 mm sieve and stored desecrator. All samples were conducted in tripletail for composting boxes and all samples were analyzed over 100 days. In addition, the content was turn the flipped from time to time.

It is important to measure the temperature as close to the center of the composting material as possible. Typically, a thermometer with a 1 m long probe is sufficient to achieve this goal. The temperature can vary within the material; it is measure the temperature in a variety of locations (Tateda *et al.*, 2012)

Compost Analysis

Chemical analyses

The chemical properties were:

- 1- Electrical conductivity (EC dSm⁻¹) of the saturated soil extracts measured was using a conductometer (Salcon, 1997).

- 2- Soil reaction (pH) of the saturated soil paste was determined using Beckman's pH meter (Petra and Barbara, 2002).
- 3- Organic matter was determined, following Walkley and Black method (Bertran and Andreas, 1994).
- 4- Total Nitrogen (T-N) was determined using an automatic Kaldahl (Bertran and Andreas, 1994).
- 5- Total phosphorus (T-P) was determined calorimetrically by a spectrophotometer (Watanabe and Olson, 1965).
- 6- Total Potassium (T-K) was measured by flame photometer (Bertran and Andreas, 1994).
- 7- Total micro elements composition (Fe, Mn and Zn) were determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAS) (Lindsay and Norvell, 1978).
- 8- Amount of oxygen from the residual straw of lettuce, tomato, potato and turnip was determined according to carbon (%) and hydrogen (%) from Table 1 (FAO, 2018).

Statistical Analysis Method

The results were analyzed using statistical analysis system, ASA (Steel and Torrie, 1981). Least significant difference at 0.05 level of probability ($LSD_{0.05}$) was used to detect the differences between lettuce, tomato, potato and turnip, Oxygen quantity and compost rate as well as to detect the interaction between all variables used in the study.

Table 1 show the ratio of both hydrogen and carbon which obtained from FAO (2018) and the oxygen ratio of these data was calculated for the four plants from the equation under Table 1 and in terms of the ratio of oxygen in the air (23%).

Oxygen Uptake Rate and Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate

Advantages

Oxygen consumption is a good estimate of the amount of biological activity, indicating whether or not the compost is mature and the amount of oxygen needed to get compost is

good because it does not leave any traces of mold and weed seeds inside the compost, as a result of the intense heat generated during the construction of the compost (Liang *et al.*, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The new definition of Maturity Index a two-tiered system is applied beginning with the minimum characterization of the C: N ratio and then proceeding to description of at least one parameter (Christian *et al.*, 2009a).

Oxygen Uptake Rate and Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate

Heterotrophic organisms (require carbon from organic compounds for their growth). Oxygen is consumed and CO₂ is evolved. Both are somewhat related since they both involve the same biological process by different microorganisms (aerobes, anaerobes and fungi). Both measurements and determinations are accepted by TMECC/USDA (Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost), with reservations listed for both methods. Aerobic activity is a function of the composts stability; therefore respiration is directly related to the compost maturity.

Composting of Vegetables Straw

Temperature

Show temperature variations during composting time, initially, heat was generated and temperature increased rapidly during the first 10 days from 35 to 55°C (mesophilic stage 1). The temperature then remained > 65°C for at least the five days (thermophilic stage) necessary for achieving sanitation through reduction of pathogen population below levels that threaten health and to kill all weed seeds and diseases causing organisms: The temperature then remained almost at an average 55°C for about 15 days after which it gradually decreased to reach atmosphere levels after 100 days (maturity stage). It was slow and long about 65 days with no measurable temperature changes. This temperature is considered ideal achieving maximum rates of on decomposition (Harrison, 2017).

The compost temperature increases due to the microbial activity, and the change is noticeable within a few hours of forming a windrow. The temperature usually increases rapidly to 50 to 60°C, and this is the level where the temperature is maintained for several weeks. This period is called the active composting stage. The temperature gradually drops to 40°C as the active composting slows down and the curing stage begins.

Composting essentially takes place within two temperature ranges: 10 to 40°C and higher than 40°C. Temperatures above 40°C are desirable because these higher levels destroy more pathogens, weed seeds and fly larvae in the manure. Composting temperatures of 45 to 65°C, when extended for more than a two-week period, are able to kill pathogens and destroy the viability of weed seeds.

All biological activity does not always result in complete oxidation of C to CO₂ (CO₂ evolved may be slightly low). Individual tests are completed over a four-day period though there are no restrictions on the number of tests capable of completing (Table 3).

Stability and Maturity

Stability relates to microbial activity, more relevant during the early stages of composting. Maturity relates more to the beneficial effects of the compost from a plant viewpoint (Ekinci *et al.*, 2013).

Table 2 show Classify Compost Maturity, stability refers to a specific stage or decomposition or state of organic matter during composting, which is related to the type of organic compounds remaining and the resultant biological activity in the material. The stability of given compost is important in determining the potential impact of the material on nitrogen availability in soil or growth media and maintaining consistent volume and porosity in container growth media. Most uses of compost require a stable to very stable product that will prevent nutrient tie up and maintain or enhance oxygen availability in soil or growth media.

Table 3 shows the estimated percentage of organic carbon (OC) in a laboratory multiplied

by the conversion factor (1.72%) to obtain the percentage of the organic matter (OM), including obtaining the quantity of organic matter in kg to be compared with the quantity of oxygen in kg (Table 1) and Relationship between quantity (OM) and (O₂) in Fig. 1. pH recommended in Table 4 was about 6.9 in compost after 100 days, therefore, increases pH of the organic matter, increasing the soil problems, particularly at high pH soil such as Egyptian soil. In general pH in composting wastes ranged between (6.22 -6.55) (Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8) after 100 days. The same results were reached by Grigatti *et al.* (2007) and Kuo *et al.* (2004).

The Carbon: Nitrogen (C/N) ratio of compost is an important factor that determines whether the soil fertility has improved or deteriorated. Overall carbon/ nitrogen ratio between 25:1 and 30:1 was considered ideal for starting materials. If the ratio is below this range, N losses from the pile might be excessive; if the C/N ratio is too high, the relative decomposition slows down when the nitrogen is used up and some organisms die (Horan, 2009). The quality is determined by the waste materials that are added to the compost pit. C/N ratio in compost as quality standards (20.1) in Table 4 but in Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 after 100 days ranged between (13.86-16.42). BoMyeong and Rosales (2016) reported that green materials like green leaves and green vegetables used for composting were rich in nitrogen content.

EC values that limit the use of compost in this plants as soil fertilizer were illustrated by Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 which ranged between (3.39- 5.91 dSm⁻¹) in the final product of the four plants, where the stander value of electrical conductivity (1.3) as in Table 4. Same results were reported by Atiyeh *et al.* (2011) and Carmona *et al.* (2012).

Tables (5-8) show the percentage of organic matter OM (%) which were higher than the international standards (27.2%) showed at Table 4, which indicates the richness of these wastes and the need to benefit from the process of composting to compensate the poor land, especially sandy and limestone soil, for the absence of dynamic.

Table 1. Calculation amount of oxygen required to get compost from lettuce, tomato, potato and turnip

Parameter	C	H	O ₂	air
	(%)	(%)	kg	kg
Plants				
Lettuce plant (<i>Lactuea sativa</i>)	62	38	4.69	20.39
Tomato plant (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> L.)	53	47	5.17	22.48
Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.)	44	56	6.20	26.96
Turnip plant(<i>Brassica napus</i>)	84	16	5.28	22.96
LSD p<0.05	-----	-----	0.17	4.1
Carbon (%) and hydrogen (%) from FAO (2018)		C equation = C ₁₂ + O _{16x2} =CO ₂		
H equation= H ₁ + ¹ / ₂ O ₂ =H ₂ O		O ₂ =23% from air		

Table 2. Proposed three tier systems to classify compost maturity

Very mature	Mature	Immature
Well cured compost	Cured compost	Uncured compost
No continued decomposition	Odor production not likely	Odors likely
No potential toxicity	Limited toxicity potential; Minimal impacts on soil N	High toxicity potential

Table 3. The net amount of organic matter in compost produced from straw of lettuce, tomato, potatoes and turnip

Plant	OC*	Convert factors	OM
	(%)		(%)
Lettuce plant (<i>Lactuea sativa</i>)	39		67.08
Tomato plant (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>)	42	1.72	72.24
Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.)	47		80.84
Turnip plant (<i>Brassica napus</i>)	43		73.96
LSD p<0.05	4.2		3.3

OM (Organic matter)* easy compared with O₂ quantity * OC (Organic Carbon)

* 16%CO Oxygen uptake less than 150 mg O₂/kg organic matter/hour

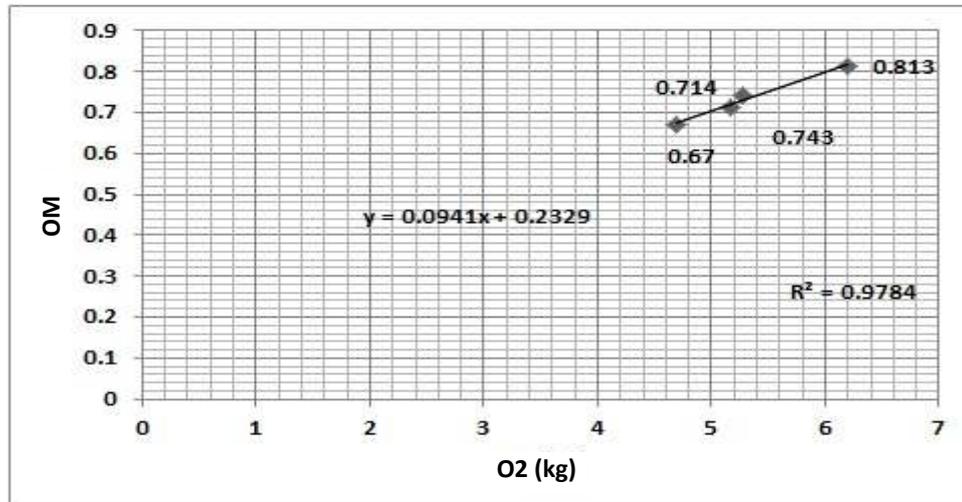


Fig. 1. Relationship between organic matter (OM) and oxygen (O₂)

Table 4. End-Use Test Values Recommended for Compost: Category Potting Mixes (Stability and Mature) comparison of quality standards for compost used in agriculture as FAO, 2018 (100 day on dry matter basis)

Composting time	pH	EC dSm ⁻¹	OM* (%)	T.N (%)	T.P (%)	T.K (%)	T.Fe (%)	T.Mn Mgkg ⁻¹	T.Zn Mgkg ⁻¹	C/N ratio	Ash content (%)
100	6.9	1.3	27.2	0.8	2.05	0.37	0.42	0.32	2.8	20.0	72.80

OM: Organic Matter (%) T.N: Total Nitrogen (%) T.P: Total Phosphorous (%) T.K: Total Potassium (%)

C/N ratio: Total carbon/Total Nitrogen in compost. T.Fe : Total Iron T .Mn : Total Manganese T.Zn : Total Zink

LSD : least significant differences

Table 5. Chemical properties of lettuce plant (*Lactuea sativa*) compost during the composting process (on dry matter basis)

Composting time (day)	pH	EC dSm ⁻¹	OM (%)	T.N (%)	T.P (%)	T.K (%)	Fe (%)	Mn Mgkg ⁻¹	Zn Mgkg ⁻¹	C/N ratio	Ash content (%)
0	7.87	3.55	83.80	1.62	0.39	0.66	0.44	0.88	1.55	30.07	16.20
10	7.84	3.45	87.60	1.70	0.36	0.74	0.46	0.89	1.56	29.95	12.40
20	7.82	3.25	85.90	1.99	0.44	0.86	0.52	0.91	1.65	25.10	14.10
30	7.75	3.40	78.60	2.02	0.45	0.88	0.53	0.93	1.74	22.62	21.40
40	7.45	3.60	77.40	2.13	0.54	0.95	0.64	0.94	1.75	21.13	22.6
60	7.87	3.70	75.60	2.34	0.65	0.96	0.66	0.95	1.90	18.78	24.40
70	7.43	4.60	68.90	2.76	0.66	1.42	0.67	0.96	1.95	14.51	31.20
80	7.18	5.81	67.90	2.77	0.71	1.66	0.78	0.97	2.10	14.25	32.10
100	6.22	5.91	66.25	2.78	0.85	1.88	0.79	0.98	2.10	13.86	33.75
LSD (0.05)	0.26	0.36	2.85	0.11	0.030	0.04	0.03	0.03	16	1.4	2.4

See footnote of Table 4

Table 6. Chemical properties of tomato plant (*Lycopersicon esculentum* L.) compost during the composting process (on dry matter basis)

Composting time (day)	pH	EC dSm ⁻¹	OM (%)	T.N (%)	T.P (%)	T.K (%)	T.Fe (%)	T.Mn Mgkg ⁻¹	T.Zn Mgkg ⁻¹	C/N ratio	Ash content (%)
0	7.86	3.60	86.70	1.53	0.36	0.65	0.33	0.74	1.55	32.94	13.30
10	7.85	2.55	87.90	1.56	0.34	0.74	0.34	0.75	1.56	32.76	12.10
20	7.82	3.30	86.40	1.6	0.45	0.83	0.35	0.77	1.66	31.39	13.60
30	7.73	3.50	82.30	1.74	0.55	0.85	0.44	0.81	1.75	27.50	17.70
40	7.45	3.60	76.90	1.77	0.62	0.92	0.47	0.83	1.79	25.26	23.10
60	7.89	4.25	76.80	2.33	0.74	0.96	0.55	0.84	1.85	19.16	23.20
70	7.40	4.30	75.60	2.40	0.84	1.18	0.59	0.95	1.99	18.31	24.40
80	7.20	4.65	73.50	2.50	0.92	1.25	0.61	0.93	2.14	17.09	26.50
100	6.35	4.68	71.40	2.66	0.97	1.35	0.66	0.91	2.16	15.61	28.60
LSD _(0.05)	0.28	0.41	2.91	0.12	0.050	0.06	0.02	0.02	17	1.6	2.34

See footnote of Table 4

Table 7. Chemical properties of potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) compost during the composting process (on dry matter basis)

Composting time (day)	pH	EC dSm ⁻¹	OM (%)	T.N (%)	T.P (%)	T.K (%)	T.Fe (%)	T.Mn Mgkg ⁻¹	T.Zn Mgkg ⁻¹	C/N ratio	Ash content (%)
0	7.87	3.26	90.70	1.22	0.39	0.65	0.33	0.77	1.56	43.22	9.3
10	7.85	3.18	91.20	1.23	0.46	0.76	0.34	0.78	1.60	43.11	8.80
20	7.82	3.05	89.90	1.77	0.49	0.86	0.36	0.84	1.70	29.53	10.1
30	7.76	3.11	89.70	1.88	0.54	0.87	0.41	0.86	1.74	27.74	10.30
40	7.50	3.15	89.60	1.90	0.62	0.95	0.46	0.89	1.78	27.42	10.40
60	7.88	3.19	87.40	2.15	0.77	0.98	0.47	0.91	1.90	23.63	12.60
70	7.44	3.32	84.50	2.18	0.85	1.26	0.48	0.93	2.25	22.54	15.5
80	7.17	3.35	83.60	2.35	0.91	1.33	0.49	0.96	2.32	20.68	16.40
100	6.41	3.39	81.32	2.88	0.93	1.35	0.51	0.98	2.40	16.42	18.68
LSD _(0.05)	0.29	0.37	2.88	0.13	0.040	0.06	0.01	0.01	18	1.6	2.37

See footnote of Table 4

Table 8. Chemical properties of turnip plant (*Brassica napus*) compost during the composting process (on dry matter basis)

Composting time (day)	pH	EC dSm ⁻¹	OM (%)	T.N (%)	T.P (%)	T.K (%)	T.Fe (%)	T.Mn Mgkg ⁻¹	T.Zn Mgkg ⁻¹	C/N ratio	Ash content (%)
0	7.88	3.45	83.70	1.82	0.37	0.74	0.22	0.66	1.55	26.74	16.30
10	7.86	2.40	84.90	1.88	0.38	0.76	0.21	0.67	1.62	26.26	15.10
20	7.84	3.10	83.50	1.90	0.46	0.86	0.19	0.68	1.65	25.55	16.50
30	7.77	3.80	81.60	2.25	0.64	0.87	0.18	0.74	1.78	21.09	18.40
40	7.50	3.49	79.30	2.66	0.74	0.92	0.17	0.75	1.85	17.33	20.70
60	7.88	3.50	78.52	2.72	0.76	0.95	0.6	0.77	1.99	16.78	21.48
70	7.45	3.55	77.50	2.85	0.85	1.10	0.15	0.81	2.10	15.81	22.50
80	7.20	3.56	76.60	2.90	0.91	1.18	0.14	0.88	2.20	15.36	23.40
100	6.55	3.58	74.33	2.93	0.98	1.25	0.13	0.97	2.30	14.75	25.67
LSD _(0.05)	0.25	0.38	2.91	0.15	0.070	0.06	0.02	0.02	18	1.5	2.34

See footnote of Table 4

source where it is known that mud and organic matter are the source of dynamism in the agriculture land. The mean values of organic matter in the crop residues ranged between (66.25 -81.32) at 100 day maturity. These results are in agreement with those reported by Sanchez *et al.* (2014) and Ribeiro *et al.* (2017).

Chemical Properties

Chemical properties very important as a result for air (oxygen) input during composting time and the composting process (Fig. 2). The Chemical properties determined were electrical conductivity (EC) pH, NO₃-N, total nitrogen (T-N), Total carbon (T-C), total potassium (T-K), total manganese (T-Mn), total zinc (T-Zn) and ash content (Tables 7, 8, 9 and 10). The sum of soluble ions in the water extracts as indicated by EC measurements increased slightly at the beginning of composting due to the release of easily decomposable compounds into the solution (Tiquia, 2015).

During the first 40 days no significant change insoluble ion concentration occurred. During maturation, the EC increased sharply in the solution reaching a maximum at 80 days or more (Christian *et al.*, 2009b).

The pH of the fresh manure for lettuce, tomato, potato and turnip was (7.87, 7.86, 7.87

and 7.88) respectively, then the pH decreased slightly at the beginning of the composting process due to accumulation of organic acids as reflected by increased alkalinity. After this, the acids were utilized as substrates by other aerobic microbes and the pH increased during the mesophilic stage (first stage). During the maturation stage the pH dropped close to neutral values, then stabilized. This pattern is typical for the composting process (El-Kouny *et al.*, 2004). Optimum pH levels for the composting within the range of lettuce, tomato, potato, and turnip (6.22, 6.35, 6.41, and 6.55) (Table 1). Really, this activity is known to be inhibited at high temperature above 40°C (Gea *et al.*, 2004). Total elemental composition was determined (T-N, T-P, T-K, T-Fe, T-Mn and T-Zn) by wet digestion and is show in (Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8). The concentration of most of the elements determined was increased with the corresponding loss of OM. The main changes occurred during the first 40 days as already has been reported for the narrowly C/N Ratio for lettuce, tomato, potato, turnip (from (30.07-13.86), (32.94-15.61), (43.22-16.42) and (26.74-14.75) respectively, and increasing ash content (from 16.30% - 25.67%), (9.3% - 18.68%), (13.30% - 28.60%) and (16.20% - 33.75%).

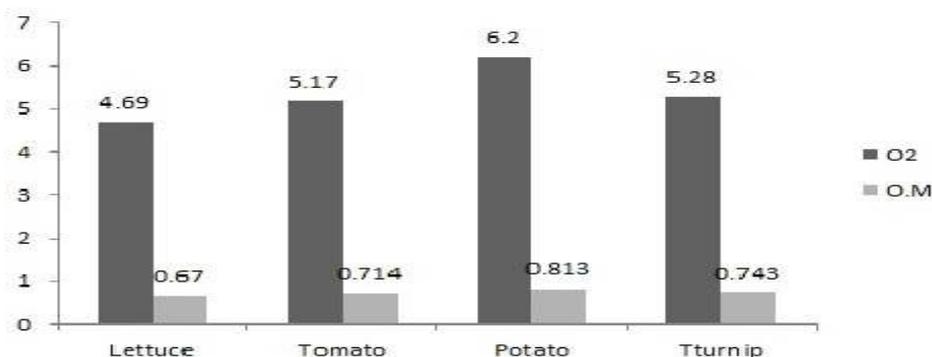


Fig. (2). Content of organic matter (O.M) and oxygen (O₂) in different compost materials

The most important results were that the greater the amount of oxygen used in the fermentation of raw materials the greater the amount of organic matter and thus increased the quality of compost. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the amount of oxygen required to obtain a good compost by knowing the amount of air that is required to oxidize the organic waste, which is in hydrogen and carbon as the organic matter is a hydrocarbon series (carbon and hydrogen, the basic component of raw organic matter).

Conclusions

The following conclusions: Relatively inexpensive and simple to operate good indicator of stability but not for following maturity, good signal response without O₂ transfer limitations with solid matrix, robust indicator used successfully with a wide range of the raw material types.

Recommendations

Attention should be given to the amount of oxygen needed to obtain good compost.

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الإنتفاع بكمية الأكسجين كمؤشر لجودة الكمبوست

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مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزة- مصر

يلعب الكمبوست دوراً هاماً في زيادة نمو النباتات والحصول على محصول جيد من خلال زيادة قدرته على خصوبة التربة لذلك كان من المهم للمزارعين الحصول على نوعية من الكمبوست تتميز بصفات جيدة للأرض والنبات وقد اهتم هذا البحث بدراسة خواص الكمبوست المكون من مخلفات قش نباتات الخس والطماطم والبطاطس واللفت وزيادة صفاته الجيدة بمعرفة نسبة الاكسجين اللازم لأكسدة المادة العضوية المكونة للكمبوست واستخدام كمية الأكسجين اللازمة لأكسدة المخلف العضوى كمؤشر لجودة الكمبوست المصنع من هذه المواد وقد أظهرت النتائج المتحصل عليها في هذا البحث انه كلما زادت كمية الاكسجين المستخدمة في تخمر المواد الخام كلما زادت كمية المادة العضوية حيث كانت كمية الاكسجين أعلى في مخلف البطاطس (٦,٢٠ كجم) وفي نفس المخلف كانت كمية المادة العضوية (٨١٣ جرام) في حين كانت كمية الاكسجين اقل في مخلف نبات الخس (٤,٦٩ كجم) وكمية المادة العضوية (٦٧٠ جم)، وبالتالي زادت جودة الكمبوست، وعليه فيجب الاهتمام بكمية الاكسجين اللازمة للحصول على كمبوست جيد وذلك بمعرفة كمية الهواء اللازمة لأكسدة المخلف العضوي متمثلاً في الهيدروجين و الكربون حيث ان المادة العضوية هي عبارة عن سلسلة هيدروكربونية كما يعتبر الكربون والهيدروجين المكونان الأساسان للمادة العضوية الخام.

الكلمات الإسترشادية: كمية الأكسجين، جودة الكمبوست، الكربون العضوى، المادة العضوية.

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