

1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

Time to make leaf mould! I get mines from the church yard where they are cleaner which is always better – and it keeps the church yard clean.

When I get them home I tip them out and then pick them up with a leaf vacuum shredder which makes them easier to break down.



One essential in making good leaf mould is to wet every leaf going in ,otherwise they will not break down. In my bin I put a 1inch layer and then water and keep repeating this. When the bin is ¾ full press down so you can really fill the bin. In one of the bins go 4 of the tonne bags I use to collect them.



Carpet is then put on top of the bin then the lid put on. The leaf mould should be ready in around 2 months. I use it as one of the ingredients in my compost heap ,but it also makes a good top dressing/mulch. Plus the beauty is that it is a free natural and excellent product.

I have also been making a leaf pen for the kids gardening club at the local school. To make the pen put 4 stakes in about 2 ft deep.



I then use plastic coated wire which is stapled onto the timber . If you read gardening magazine write ups this would be your end product - not for me.I want mine to break down as quickly as possible .



So scaffolding netting is put on the inside of the wire and then a weed suppressant is put on the inside of the scaffolders netting.



2 bits of wire secure the overlap . This last photo shows a 2 " layer of leaves watered - all ready for my mate with his new toy – a petrol driven vacuum provided by the school( he`s the caretaker) to blow the leaves into a pile.

