Compost
A practical course on compost making and its use

Saturday 25th April 2026 9.30am – 4.00pm with Sue Mabberley
at Nant-y-Bedd, Fforest Coal Pit, Abergavenny, NP7 7LY

Composting is a key element of organic growing. Transforming waste products from kitchen and garden into microbially active compost to enrich the soil is an immensely satisfying process.
We will begin the day with an indoor session on the theory behind the process of successful compost making, leafmould and alternative approaches including chop-and-drop, and mulching.
Following lunch (please bring your own) we will move into the garden to make a compost windrow and tour the garden to see composting in action – bins at different stages of the process, including leafmould bins and compost and leafmould in use in the garden, and potting compost mixes.

Synopsis
• why we should make compost and other methods of recycling nutrients in the garden
• the basics of a controlled aerobic composting process including what materials are suitable for composting, the importance of mixing materials and temperature control
• how to sort out a compost heap/bin which isn't performing
• how to speed up the process
• how to use your compost in the garden, potting mixes and mulches and no-dig veg growing
• how to make leafmould and its uses in the garden

Level of expertise required? The workshop will be equally suitable for novice or seasoned composters.

Bring with you Sensible shoes and outdoor wear.

Go away with A commitment to make compost.

Please note that lunch is not included. Please bring your own. Tea/coffee and cake are included.

Booking a place
Places are limited to 10 to ensure maximum opportunity for discussion.
Cost £80 (plus booking fee)

The course will be led by Sue Mabberley. Sue has a First-Class Honours degree in Environmental Systems, has professionally devised and delivered practical environmental training courses and most importantly has gardened organically at Nant-y-Bedd Garden for more than 43 years making fantastic compost.