

Making Biochar



What is Biochar

Biochar is a soil amendment made from using a mix of hard and soft woods that has been burned, but the burning process is stopped before it can turn completely to ash. The char is incorporated into the soil and is used to add carbon to the soil, assists building organic matter, and can help increase water holding capacity of the soil. This method is often used in areas with limited access to soil nutrients or poor soil fertility.

How to make Biochar

1. Collect dead wood or dried wood, branches or small trees (less than 4" in diameter)
2. Dig a trench along one side of the garden with a shovel, about 2 feet wide and 1 ½ feet deep.



3. Stack wood in trench until 2 feet over ground level. Start a fire, check with local authorities about a burning permit if necessary.



How to make Biochar

4. Burn wood until approximately 70-80% burned, able to break into 1-4" pieces. Stop burning with water.



5. Allow to cool and spread across the rest of the growing space and incorporate into soil. Cover trenched used for burning.



6. Repeat every 3-4 years as desired.