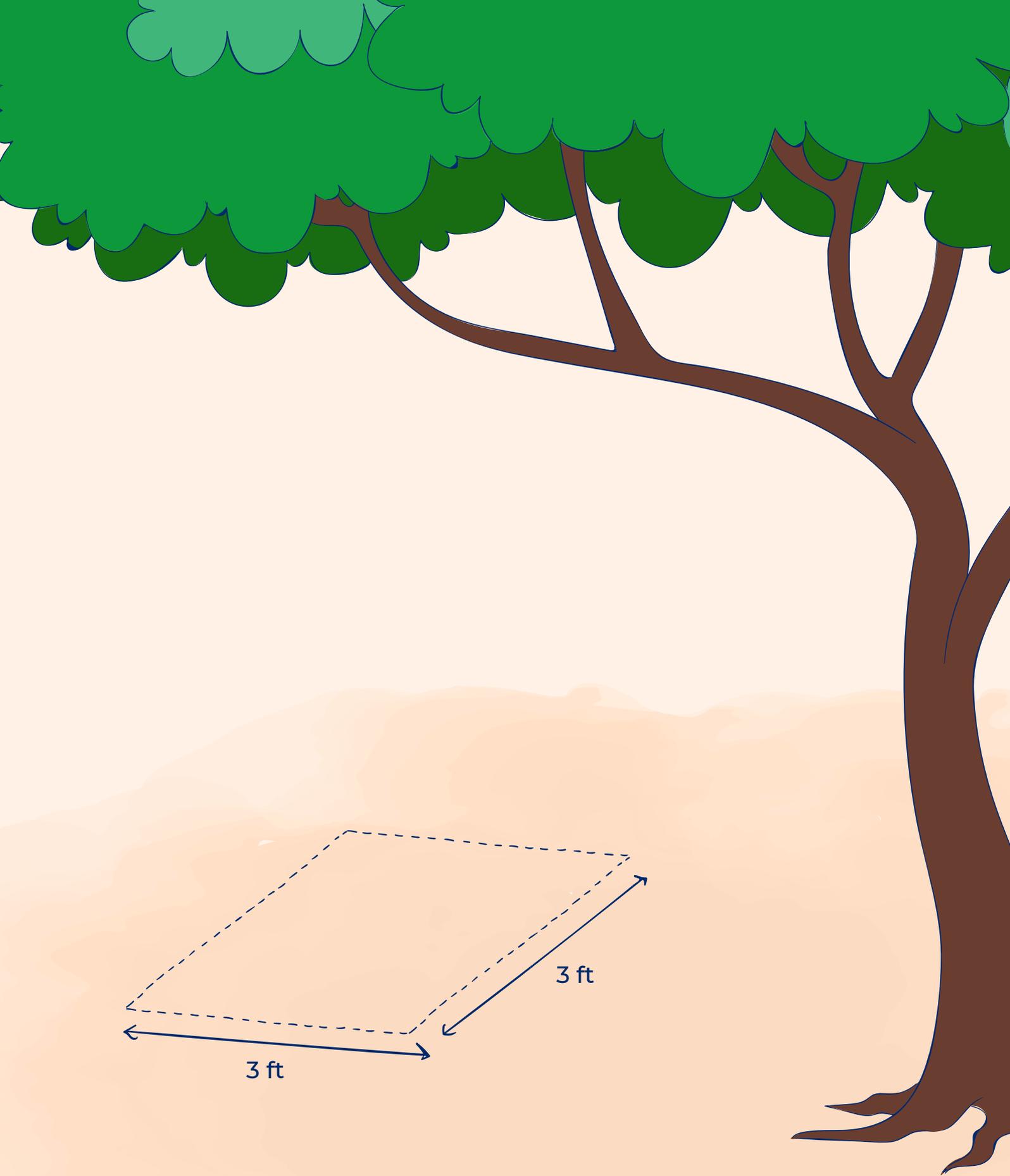




How to make compost

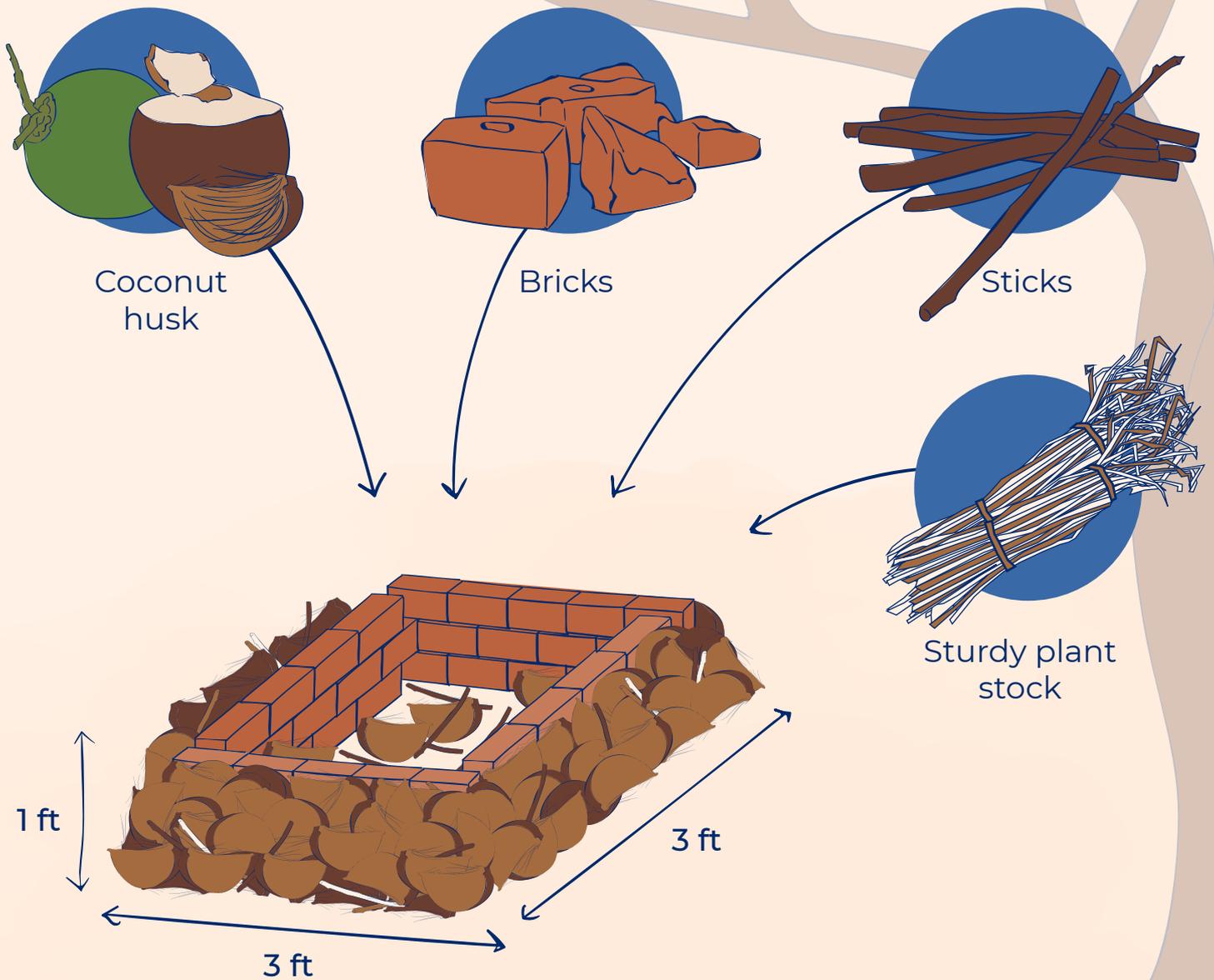
Creating an organic manure essential to the soil.



1

Select a site

Select a site where a 3 x 3 x 3 ft space is available for composting. It should be shaded (under a tree/a shed) and should have good drainage. Mark the site and clear it by removing any weeds, roots, grass, etc.



2

Create a boundary of 3 ft x 3 ft, slightly elevated off the ground

Collect coconut husk, bricks, sticks, sturdy plant stock or any other material within the marked site to make a base of dry woody material of about 1 ft thickness.



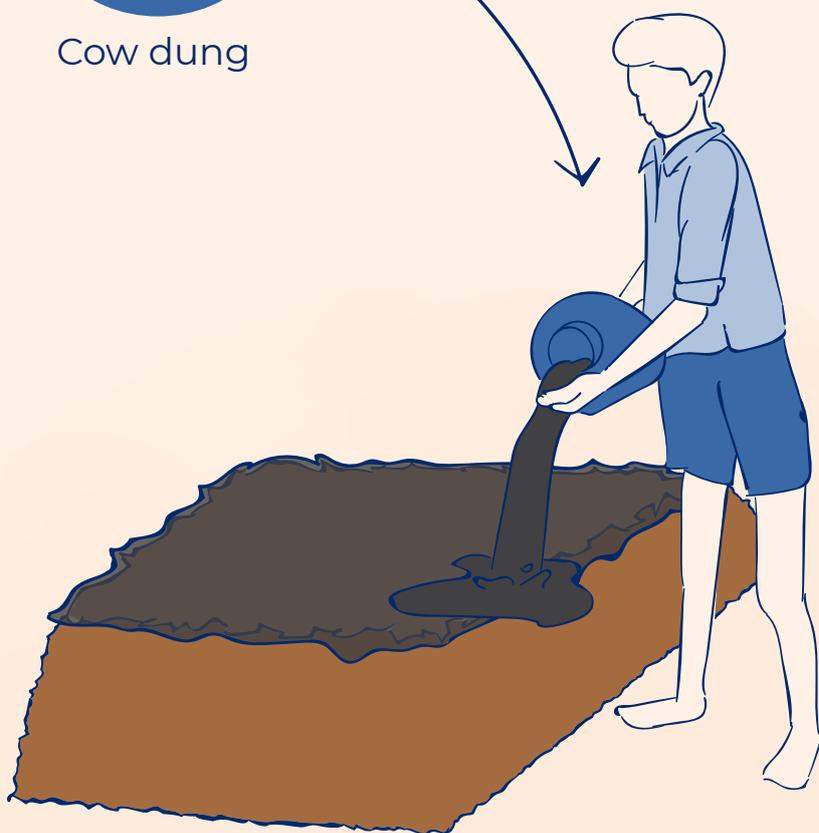
3

Make first layer with dry material

Chop the dry material (hay, straw, shredded pruning, sawdust and other wooden waste, dried leaves, etc.) into small pieces. Soak the chopped dry material up in water, squeeze it, and spread it between the compost boundary.



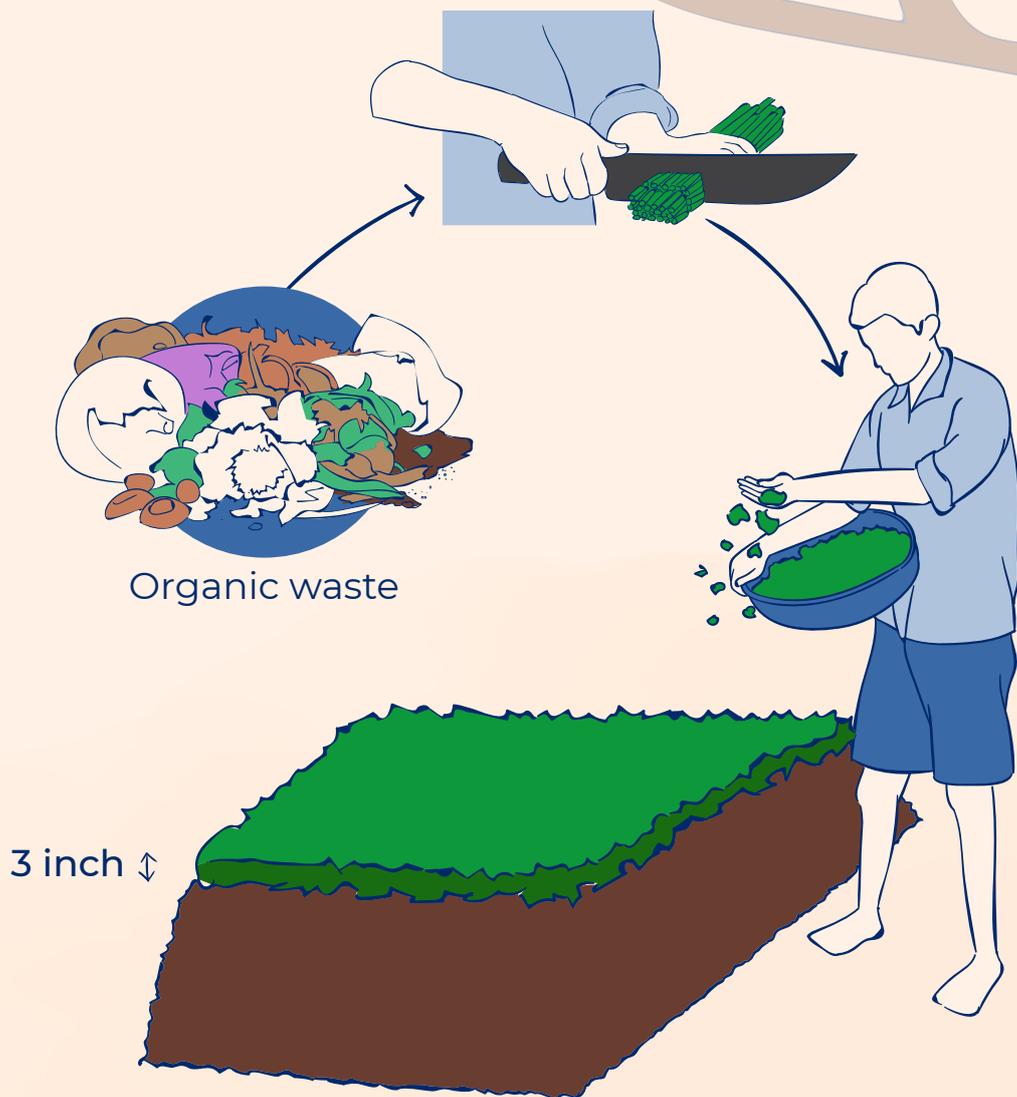
Cow dung



4

Apply cow dung slurry

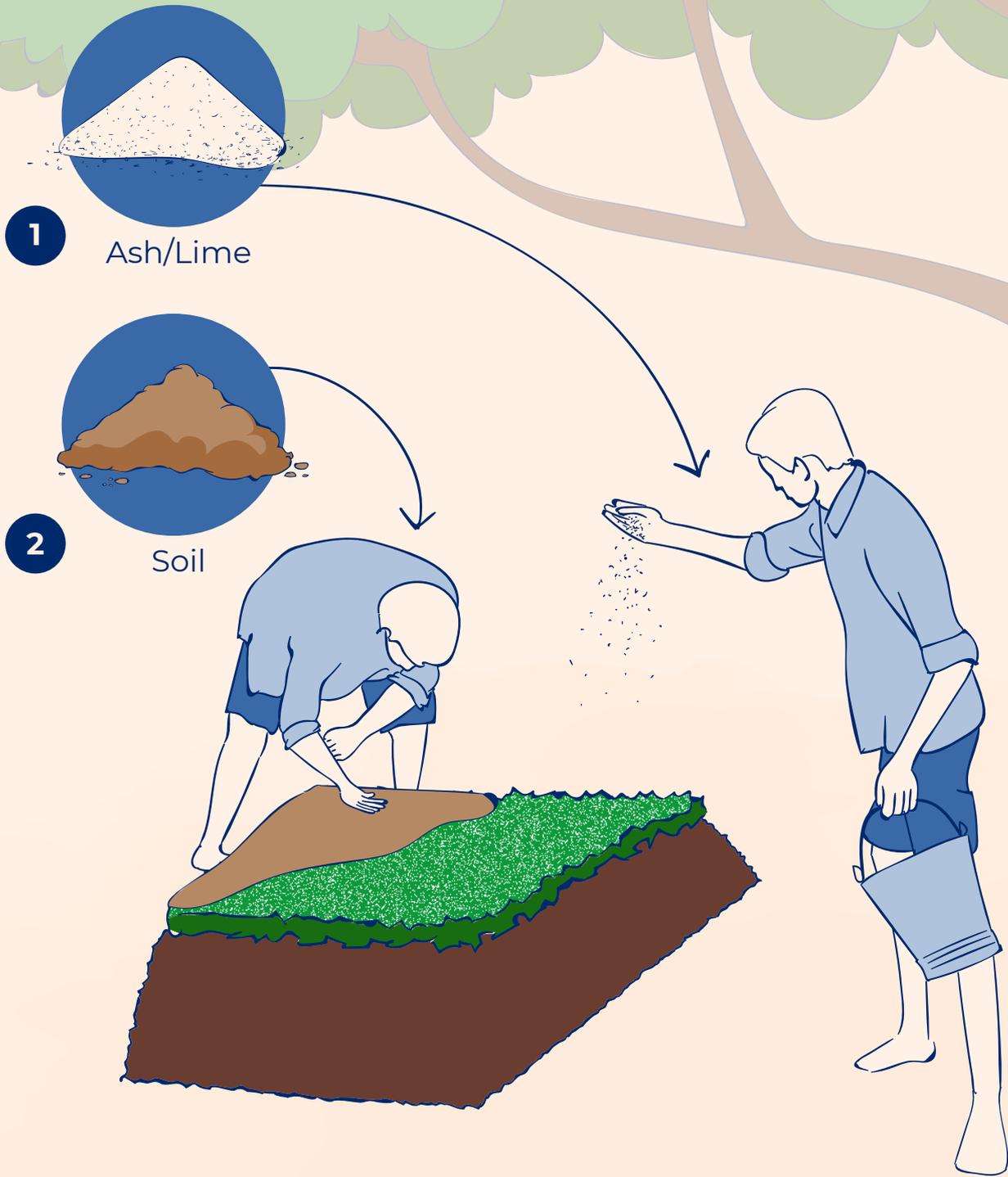
Apply cow dung slurry sufficient to drench the dry material.



5

Add first layer of green material

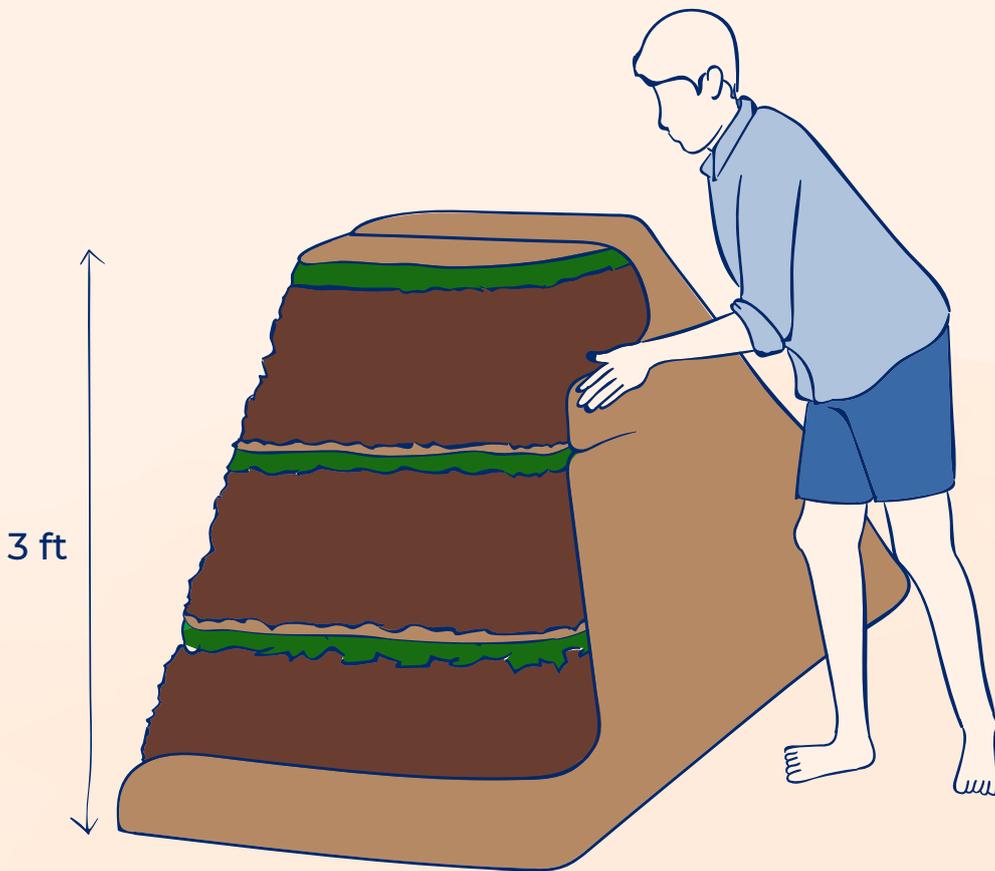
Chop green material/organic waste into small pieces. Spread it on top of the first layer of dry matter and cow dung slurry. Keep adding to it till the green matter layer is approximately 3 inches thick.



6

Top up with ash/lime and soil

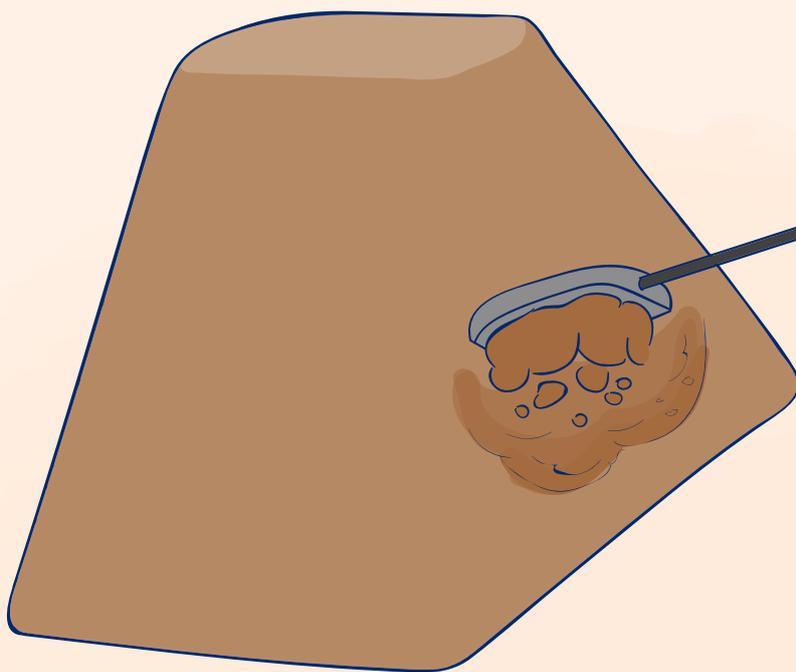
Sprinkle a small amount of lime powder or ash (like adding pepper and salt on food) on the green material. Then add a thin layer of soil on top.



7

Keep topping up compost pile, plaster with soil when complete

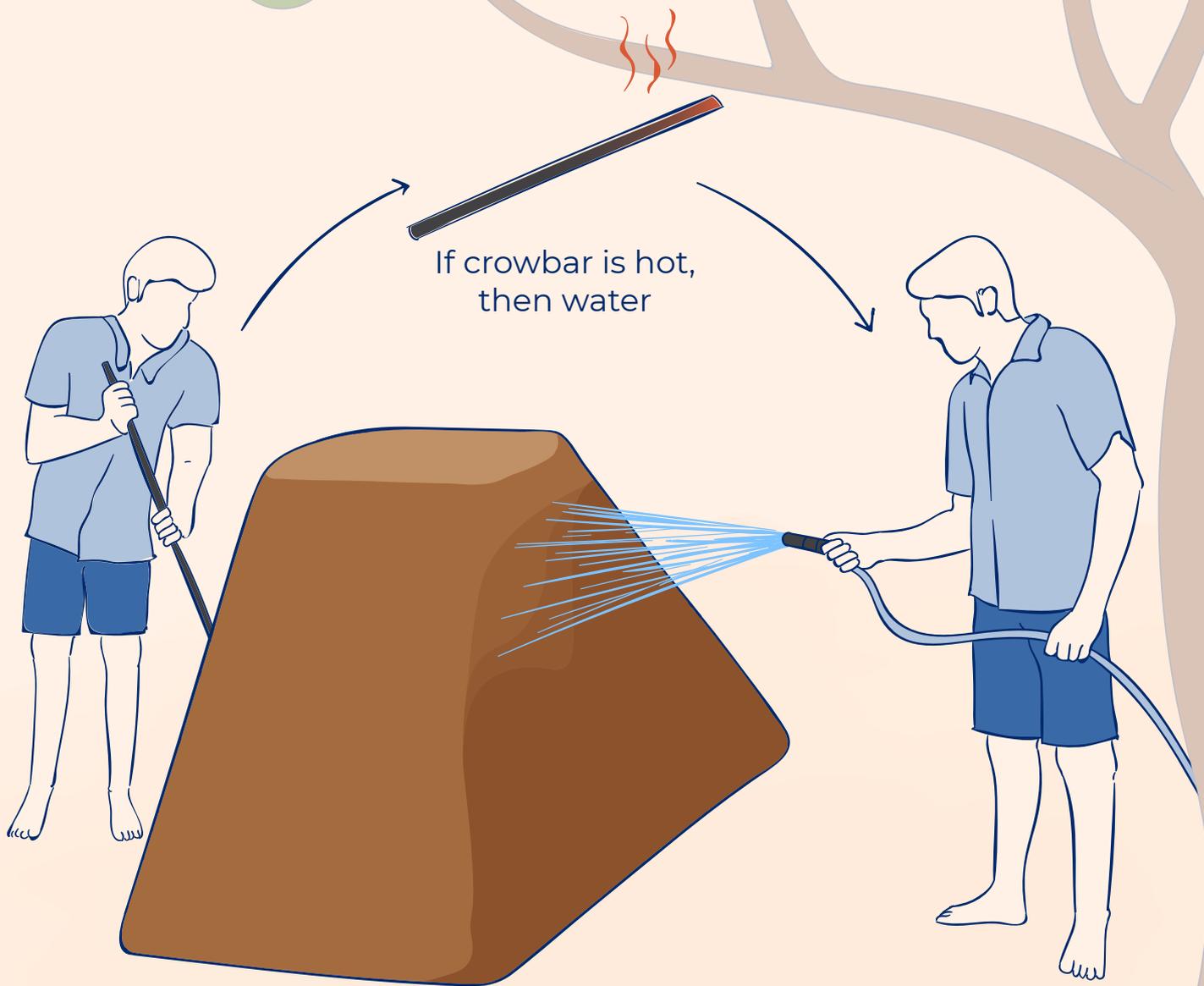
Repeat this sequence from step 2 to step 6 layering up in a dome shape till the compost pile is 3 ft high. Then plaster the pile with wet soil so that the heat generated inside will not escape.



8

Maintenance - Turning and Aeration

If all waste is chopped finely, turning is not needed. If material is coarser and not decomposing properly, turn the heap once a month (or shorter intervals if required).



9

Maintenance - Watering

Place a crowbar in the center of the pile for 3 days- remove this and check temperature by hand. If it is hot, water the heap enough to make it a little damp (not too wet).

Note

Harvest and use when ready. This usually takes 3 weeks to 3 months.

The time for composting varies depending on location, climate, materials being used and process of composting.

If the compost is not going to be used immediately, store it in jute bags in a open, cool place.

Once in a month, sprinkle water over the compost material to maintain moisture.



10

Harvesting

Extract compost using spade and sieve it to remove worms as well as particles like glass shards, plastic, stone etc. which may have entered the compost pile by mistake.

