

Charcoal pile

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A **charcoal pile** is a carefully arranged pile of wood, covered by turf or other layer, inside which a fire is lit in order to produce charcoal. The pile is tended by a charcoal burner. It is similar to a charcoal kiln, but the latter is usually a permanent structure made of e.g. stone.

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Gallery



Section through a charcoal pile



Heart (Kern or Quandel) of the charcoal pile on an old Meilerplatz



Layer of beech wood around the heart



Pile with various layers (wood, spruce brushwood (Fichtenreisig), grass sods)



Lighting of a charcoal pile by honorary guests at a *Meilerfest* (2014)



Covered with loam, ready for firing



Finished pile with windbreak, charcoal burner's hut and fireplace



Charcoal pile in the Westphalian Open Air Museum, Hagen



Charcoal pile in Walpersdorf, one of the last in the Siegerland



Opening of the charcoal pile



Charcoal product



Charcoal burners at work (turn of the 19th/20th centuries)



Section of a charcoal pile

Literature

- Karl Hasel, Ekkehard Schwartz: *Forstgeschichte. Ein Grundriss für Studium und Praxis. 2.*, aktualisierte Auflage. Kessel, Remagen, 2002, ISBN 3-935638-26-4

- Richard B. Hilf: *Der Wald. Wald und Weidwerk in Geschichte und Gegenwart – Erster Teil* [Reprint]. Aula, Wiebelsheim, 2003, ISBN 3-494-01331-4
- Hildebrandt, H., Heuser-Hildebrandt, B. and Stumböck, M.(2001): Bestandsgeschichtliche und kulturlandschaftsgenetische Untersuchungen im Naturwaldreservat Stelzenbach, Forstamt Nassau, Revier Winden. Mainzer Naturwissenschaftliches Archiv, Beiheft 25, 83 S., Mainz.

External links

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Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Kohlenmeiler***.

- European Charcoal Burners' Society (<http://www.europkoehler.com/>)
- Annual charcoal piles (<http://www.waldmuenchen.de/kohlenmeiler.html>)
- Charcoal burner's festival (*Köhlerfest*) in Fischbach/Kreis Kaiserslautern (<http://www.koehlerfest.de>)
- Annual charcoal burner's festival in Glasofen in the Spessart (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130322074450/http://www.glasofen.eu:80/index.php/koehler/home>)
- Charcoal burning in the Entlebuch (Switzerland) UNESCO Biosphere Heritage Site (<http://www.koehlerei.ch/>)
- Charcoal burning in the Mettauertal valley (<http://www.holzkoehlerei-mettauertal.ch/>)

References

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Categories: Crafts | Forestry | History stubs

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