



How to

WORM FARM



There are many ways to have a successful worm farm. You can keep worms in a converted fridge or polystyrene box. These instructions focus on how to use the domestic multi-tray systems.

What you will need

- ♦ **WORM FARM:** available from most gardening stores and some councils at a discounted price.
- ♦ **BEDDING MATERIAL:** worm castings, shredded paper and/or coco coir block soaked in water.
- ♦ **COMPOST WORMS:** at least one kilo or a minimum of 1,000 worms.
- ♦ **A WORM BLANKET:** hessian bag, old towel, bath mat or similar.
- ♦ **CONTAINER:** to catch the worm liquid.

Getting started

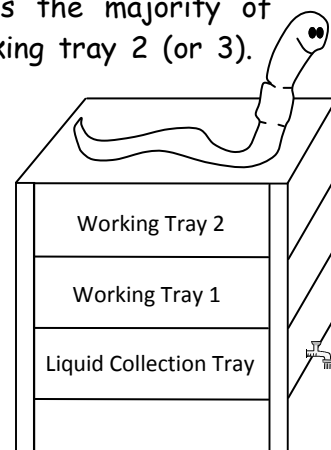
1. Choose a cool and shady site for your worm farm either outside or inside (laundry, classroom or balcony).
2. Assemble your worm farm (you won't need your second working tray for several months).
Tip: Prop up one end slightly so the liquid can drain out easily.
3. Place the cardboard packaging or newspaper on the bottom of the first working tray (this has a perforated base). Add prepared bedding

and then the worms.

4. Ensure the tap is fully opened with container underneath and pour in 3-5 litres. Some people prefer to keep the tap open at all times with a container underneath to prevent worms drowning in built up liquid.
5. Cover with a worm blanket.
6. Do not feed for one to two days to allow the worms to settle in.

Adding another tray

7. Add working tray two when the first tray is almost full, so the worms can easily move between the trays.
8. Add a 5 cm layer of bedding, worms and castings (worm humus) to the new tray and start adding food. If you have 3 working trays, repeat steps 7 & 8.
9. After several months the majority of worms will be in working tray 2 (or 3). When this tray is almost full you can remove the first tray and use the castings. Keep the first tray to one side until the second tray is full of castings and repeat from step 7.



How to feed

Worms eat their body weight in food each day.

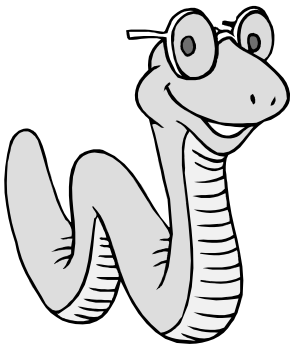
Do not over feed your worms!

1,000 worms = 1 cup of food per day

Worms don't have teeth, they suck in food. The smaller the food particle the more they can eat. Tip: Blend, chop, or freeze then thaw food in the sun. Bury the food in the bedding/castings, do not leave it on top.

If food consists mainly of food scraps (high in moisture), add a handful of garden lime every fortnight to reduce acidity and add shredded newspaper.

What to feed your worms



Worms Love

- * Teabags/coffee grounds
- * Leftovers (raw and cooked)
- * Pre-moistened paper products
- * Natural fibre clothing
- * Water - water your worms every couple of days with a litre of water. Tip: re-use cool water from pasta etc.
- * Veggie scraps
- * Straw
- * Garden refuse
- * Lawn clippings

Worms Hate

- * Citrus peel
- * Onion
- * Garlic
- * Meat
- * Dairy

Problem	Likely Cause	Solution
Smelly worm farm	Too much uneaten food and not enough aeration.	Stop adding food, sprinkle some garden lime and gently aerate top layer.
Vinegar flies	These are harmless but may indicate too much food.	Cut back on how much you are feeding them.
Ants	This is an indication of the bedding being too dry or acidic.	Add water and garden lime. Put worm farm legs in tubs of water with a few drops of kero/metho or smear Vaseline around the legs. Bury the food.
Escaping worms!	Some worms will move up the sides and onto the lid - this is fine. If there are masses of them, there may be problems in the bedding.	Monitor the moisture level, food amounts and add a little lime. Gently aerate the bedding.
Worms in the liquid tray	This is usually due to heat.	On hot days add a layer of newspaper soaked in cool water on top of the bedding or place a frozen bottle of water on the blanket. Avoid manures and grass clippings as these are known to heat up as the break down.

Also see our 'How to Compost' factsheet. Visit www.earthcarers.org.au

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