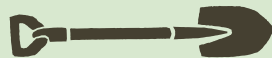


THE COMPOST COLLECTIVE



WORM FARMING

GETTING STARTED

Worm farming uses composting worms such as tiger worms to eat through a mixture of food scraps, garden waste, waste paper and cardboard. Both the solids (Castings) and the liquids (Worm Tea) make excellent fertilisers for the garden. Managing a worm farm is not difficult. The key is to:

- Balance the amount of food you give the worms to match their population
- Not feed the worms things they don't like to eat.
- Feed the worms both greens and browns in the correct ratio.

WHAT TO FEED YOUR WORMS

Greens - 70%

Organic waste that is full of nitrogen. Anything soft, fresh and moist. Add:

- Fresh fruit and vegetable scraps and peelings
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Eggshells
- Manure from animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs

Browns - 30%

Organic waste that is mainly carbon. Anything dry, brown and brittle. Add:

- Shredded brown paper
- Torn up, wet cardboard such as egg cartons or toilet rolls
- Fallen autumn leaves



EcoMatters



Kaipātiki Project
share in nature's revival



WORM FARMING

GETTING STARTED

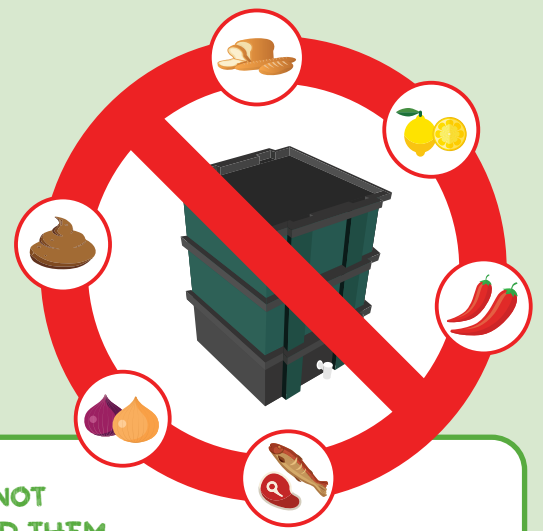
Choose a site sheltered from the sun. Prepare your worm farm with a layer of damp, well drained bedding such as coconut fibre, shredded cardboard or compost, then add your worms.

Feeding

Worms can eat their own weight each day so be careful not to over feed them. Start with a small amount every 1-2 days and remove anything that goes mouldy. Slowly increase the food supply over the first 6 months. The population of worms will increase proportionately and will reach a point where they quickly consume all the food you give them.

Maintenance

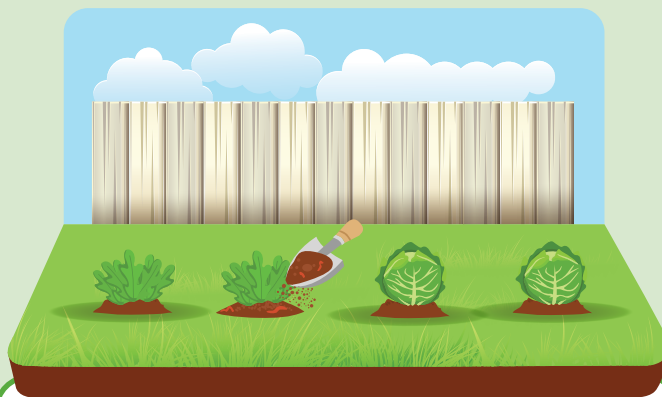
Worms need both air and moisture so make sure your worm farm is damp but well drained. If it has a tap, leave it open with a bucket underneath to collect the Worm Tea. Passing a garden fork through the worm farm and incorporating browns such as torn up egg cartons will help balance the pH and keep your worm farm aerated.



WHAT NOT TO FEED THEM

There are some things you should avoid feeding your worms. These include:

- Spicy food such as chilli, onion and garlic
- Meat and milk products
- Citrus or acidic foods
- Cooked or processed food such as bread and pasta
- Oils and liquids such as soup
- Dog and cat faeces



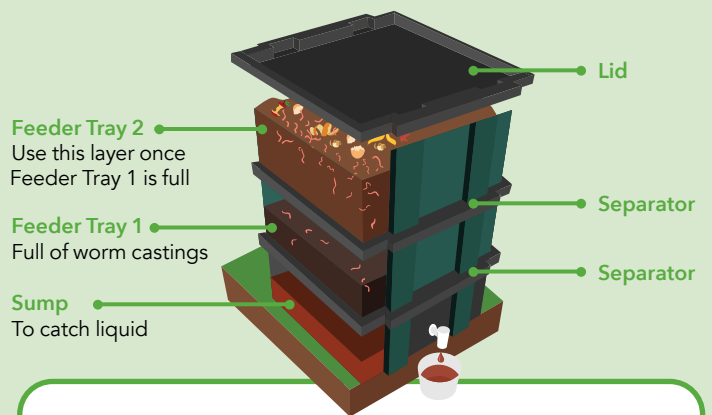
HARVEST TIME

Worm Castings

The castings are ready to harvest when the lower layers of the worm farm smell earthy and look like a dark fine compost. At this point only a few worms can be seen. Spread the castings around your garden beds or simply add one part castings to ten parts water, stir well and pour the liquified castings around the base of your plants.

Worm Tea

Always let the liquid drain freely into a separate bucket. For use on the garden it is best if the liquid is watered down to the colour of weak black tea. Apply regularly around plant roots as a nutritious fertiliser.



THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF WORM FARMS

Stacked

These are divided into different layers. They have a sump to collect the liquids and two stacked feeder trays that are rotated periodically. The middle layer is harvested when the top layer is 2/3 full.

Continuous Flow

This are a single vessel with a large open cavity that houses the worms. You simply feed at the surface and harvest from an opening at the base.

