

Promised Land **WORM PRODUCTS**

FEEDING AND CARING FOR WORMS

Light

Worms usually live underground, so they need an environment that is cool, dark and moist. If they are uncovered in bright light they will try to escape it. Locate your compost heap in a place away from excessive heat and light. And when feeding or harvesting try to do so away from direct sunlight. Consider covering your compost with some old carpet, blanket, rags or cardboard. This will keep it dark and allow the worms to worm right up under the cover, it will also help control evaporation.

Using Your Worm Enhanced Compost.

The compost produced from garden and kitchen waste using worms is a very useful product, and perfect to go onto fruit and vegetables. It is rich in helpful microorganisms that are not contained in chemical fertilizers.

Use it around your established plants or in your vegetable garden. Mulching over the compost retains moisture and protects the microorganisms it contains.

There are many other uses for this wonderful product. For more information please call us or your local nursery or experiment for yourself.

To make worm juice ask us about SWAG Worm Farms.

Call us today. We have home worm farms to suit any size household.



94 Promised Land Road,
GLENIFFER NSW 2454.
info@plworms.com.au
Phone (02) 6655 0025
Fax (02) 6655 9100
Mobile 0447 647 828
www.plworms.com.au

The Vermiculture Professionals

Promised Land **WORM PRODUCTS**

COMPOSTING WITH WORMS

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CALL (02) 6655 0025**

**OR GO ONLINE
TO
WORMS ON THE
WEB**

www.plworms.com.au

Promised Land **WORM PRODUCTS**

WORM FARMING

Worms do wonderful things for your garden. They can process garden clippings and kitchen scraps, and turn them into an excellent soil conditioner. They also aerate the soil as they work.

When used in composting, they accelerate the composting process by up to ten times.

STARTING YOUR COMPOST

Composting can occur in anything from a simple pile or heap in the corner, a plastic tub, a tumbler type system right up to high tech commercial vertical compost accelerators.

The most common systems in domestic use are the simple compost heaps or plastic bins.

➔To start off your compost, first place some shredded newspaper on the ground and wet it. You can also add some matured compost. Wet this down so you have a layer of bedding 6 - 8 cm thick.

➔Next add some worms. On top of these add a small amount of food or garden scraps. Compost worms live in the top 10 - 20 cm of the soil. So try not to build your pile up much higher than this. This will also avoid your pile generating heat as it composts.

➔Leave the pile for a week to settle in. When you add to the pile, put the material on one side and continue to feed from the same side. So instead of a tall pile you get a long pile which makes it easy to harvest the compost. If you have a bin or box type compost heap, worms can still be used effectively. Avoid adding large amounts of material at a time as this will create too much heat and cook your worms. Add no more than 20 cm at a time. Pre-composting grass clippings for a week before addition is recommended.

Promised Land **WORM PRODUCTS**

FEEDING AND CARING FOR WORMS

FOOD

Worms are voracious eaters that can eat their own weight every day. Once they have settled into your compost heap, give them a good supply of suitable food. Try to feed only a little but often. Also the smaller the pieces the quicker the worms can eat them. The worms diet can consist of:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps (try to either cook or chop up any whole pieces & avoid onion and citrus)
- Shredded and soaked paper and cardboard.
- Leaves and garden clippings, chop up with mower.
- Anything organic and dead.

Worms will also eat meat scraps, but be careful as this may lead to smells or maggots.

Animal manure, dog dropping etc. can also be eaten by your worms.

WATER

Worms require moisture, and should never be allowed to dry out. If you notice the heap looking dry, or in particularly hot weather, give it a light hose with fresh water.

Care

Your worm compost or worm farm is actually a bacteria farm. As the worms don't have teeth they actually eat bacteria. They farm the bacteria by moving through the material creating tunnels which gives more surface area for the bacteria to grow on. They carry the bacteria in their gut so as they excrete their castings they inoculate the new food. So to maintain a healthy population of bacteria to break down the scraps there are 3 essential things:

1. Moisture—the compost or worm farm needs a constant moisture content to maintain the bacteria.
2. Temperature—the compost or worm farm needs a constant temperature with no rapid temperature changes. The bigger the volume in the compost or worm farm the safer they will be.
3. Ph—the compost or worm farm needs a constant ph, around 7 (neutral). If it goes down below 7 (acid) it will begin to smell. To correct Ph use a small amount of ag lime or dolomite and hose in. The smell should disappear immediately.