

### Worm Farm

Charles Darwin once said that all fertile soil in the world had at some time passed through the body of a worm. While this may be an exaggeration, one thing for sure is that worm compost (or vermicast) is a great soil additive. It is perfect for incorporating into planting holes or enriching soil with nutrients and beneficial micro organisms. The liquid which comes from worm farms also makes a fabulously rich liquid fertiliser.

You can start a worm farm easily, all you need is either a specially designed farm kit, or a couple of polystyrene boxes that stack and have holes in the base.



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First place a layer of peat moss in the top layer or box, then add some live compost worms. Next, place some fruit and vegie scraps down on top. The worms prefer slightly decayed matter, so try to avoid highly acid fruit and veg refuse like onions and oranges, as these can take some time to compost.



Step 1

Leaves, newspaper, tea leaves, coffee grounds and the like can all go in.



Step 2

Lastly, cover the whole lot over with some moist newspaper or a sheet of plastic to keep the contents moist.



Step 3

The worms will now do all the work. As the worms get to work, your scraps will turn into writhing masses alive with worms.

They actually breed into the right numbers to cope with the amount of "food" you give them. This may take a little while to stabilize so be patient with them.



Step 4

The bottom box or layer of your worm farm will collect all the composted organic matter. Collect this and add it to your garden whenever you plant or want to enrich the soil.



Step 5

Collect any liquid for use as a concentrated liquid fertiliser.



Step 6