Vermicompost System Overview

What is vermicomposting?

Vermicomposting is a method of recycling organic waste into vermicompost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment, using worms! As worms eat and digest organic material, they produce ***vermicompost*** (worm poop), also known as worm castings. The most common type of worm used for vermicompost is the red wiggler worm or *Eisenia fetida*.

Why vermicompost?

Vermicomposting has **benefits to soil, plants, and society**. Vermicompost enhances soil health and fertility which improves the growth of our plants. Composting at home also reduces the amount of food waste that ends up in our landfills and allows us to recycle organic material locally!

What can be added to your worm bin?





You can feed your worms most non-meat food scraps including; **fruit and vegetable scraps**. Make sure to chop up your food scraps into small pieces and consider the *"hardness"* and *"wetness"* of your food scraps.





Your worm kit includes **bedding material** that the worms will slowly consume, alongside the organic material you add to your bin. Any paper material you add should be free of dyes, non-toxic, and shredded into small pieces.



Helpful Tips

- **Always replace the lid on your bin immediately after feeding to protect worms from light, prevent them from escaping, and keep out pests!**
- **Make sure to spread out your food waste and bury it under bedding material to prevent pests and bad odors.**
- **One pound of worms can eat up to two pounds of food every week! --- If you add more food than your worms can consume, it will begin to rot and become smelly!**
- **Store extra food scraps in a plastic bag in your freezer until you are ready to add them to your worm bin.**

Set-up Instructions

1. Identify a cool, dry space inside or outside your home and follow the instructions on your worm bin kit for set-up.
    a. ***Note:*** During the summer, your bin needs to be kept in the shade
    b. ***Optional*** - Place a towel or old t-shirt underneath your worm bin to catch any material that may fall out when monitoring.

Optimal Conditions

Worms enjoy dark, moist environments. Their ideal temperature range is 59˚F - 77˚F. The material in your worm bin should never be dry, it should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge.