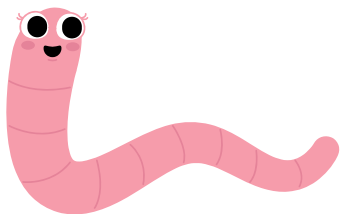


VERMICOMPOSTING COMPOST WITH WORMS!

Today your child
learned..



Why Compost?

- 40% of food grown in the U.S. is never eaten
- 20 pounds of food per person per month is wasted
- 90% of us throw away food before it has spoiled
- The average family could save \$1,500 per year
- 1 in 8 Americans face food insecurity

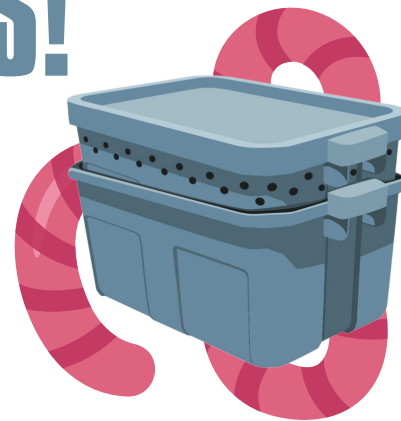
Benefits vs Drawbacks

Benefits:

- Compost indoors all year-round
- Very low cost to build your own bin
- It's easy!
- Does not require yard waste

Drawbacks:

- Worms can't eat everything
- Harvesting castings can be time consuming



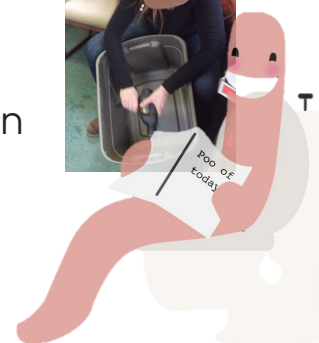
What is Vermicomposting?

The decomposition of organic materials through the use of worms.

Worms live in an enclosed container called a "worm bin" or a "worm farm."

The worms digest the food scraps, and the product is a humus-substance called "castings" or "vermicompost."

Worm castings are the richest natural fertilizer on Earth!



ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE
RECOVERY AGENCY

845-336-0600

www.ucrra.org

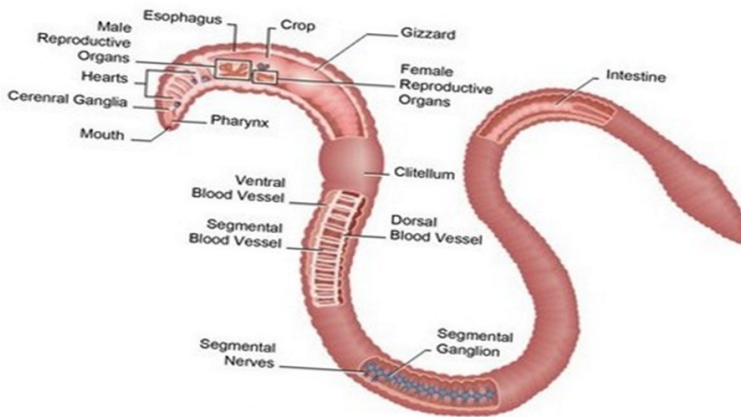
@UCRRA



VERMICOMPOSTING COMPOST WITH WORMS!

Red Wiggler Ecology *Eisina Fetida*

Red Wigglers are the best for home composting!



What Worms Want:
Darkness, dampness, coolness, and lots of stuff to eat!



Red Wigglers have a rapid reproductive lifecycle, also making them great for composting.



Harvesting Finished Compost

Tips for Feeding Worms

- Size matters! Aim for all food scraps to be 1/2 inch in size!
- Monitor moisture, bedding compaction, dryness
- **Worms like** vegetable skins, peels, coffee grounds, loose leaf tea, crushed egg shells...
- **Worms don't like** meat, bones, fish, citrus, dairy products...

Worm Bin Bedding



What is it?

- shredded newspaper
- shredded brown paper bags
- etc..

Why is it important?

Bedding protects the worms from heat and light, allowing them to keep cool and decreasing flies from odors.



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