

IN-GROUND VERMICOMPOSTING

Harness the Power of Worms to Boost Plant Growth in Your Gardens!



What is In-Ground Vermicomposting?

It's an integrated method that lets your plants directly access the products of the vermicomposting process. Instead of using a worm bin that you harvest castings from after several months, you're setting up a system in the soil that's easily accessible to plant roots.

Why In-Ground Vermicomposting?

- It offers a great way to convert your kitchen scraps into rich plant food.
- Plants can tap valuable worm composting bi-products much more quickly and directly.
- There are fewer hassles and frustrations than with a typical indoor worm bin.
- The earth provides great protection for the worms from weather extremes.
- It's simple, easy and fun!

Why Can't I Just Add Composting Worms Straight Into My Garden?

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Enrich your soil naturally.

GETTING STARTED

Setting Up Your Plastia In-Ground Worm Composter

1) Assemble It

Simply snap the top section together with the bottom section, and away you go!



2) Choose a Location

We recommend a garden bed where you plan to grow some plants (eg a raised bed for vegetables). NOTE: It is best to install these composters early in the season, so as not to disturb plant roots. Don't forget to also put them in a spot you'll always have easy access to.

3) Dig a Hole

it should be 20 cm wide and about 50 cm deep. We want the composter fully buried with only the upper section exposed, but also want to leave room for...

4) Bottom Bedding

Add some shredded cardboard or coir in the bottom of your hole. This will help soak up liquids, while also giving the worms a safe zone outside the system.

5) False Bottom

Add a similar bedding layer in the bottom of the unit. This should occupy no more than 1/4 of the total volume.

6) Add Food

Chopped up fruit and/or veggie scraps, such as leafy greens, banana peels, melon rinds or apple cores plus a small quantity of living materials, such as old horse manure, rotten leaves or compost from another system (if you have them) are great to add next.

7) More Bedding & Food

Add another thin layer of bedding, and another thin layer of kitchen scraps / living material. The level should be about 3/4 the way up.

NOTE: Small amounts of pH Buffer Grit and/or BioChar can be sprinkled in during the set-up process if you happen to have them, but this is not mandatory.

7) Add Water

Use a watering can to wet everything thoroughly (it is free draining so don't worry about adding too much).

8) Add Worms

Gently empty the contents of your worm bag/tub (we recommend 1/4 lb or less of Red Wigglers), or simply transfer over some worm-rich material from another active system.

9) Cover Bedding

Top up the system with a thick layer of dry cover bedding, such as shredded cardboard or hemp tow then put on the lid.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Feeding

As the level of materials goes down, periodically add a small quantity of kitchen scraps on top of the bedding and then add a new layer of cover bedding. NOTE: Chopping up your scraps well will help the breakdown process, and help you fit them in more effectively.

Watering

The system should stay quite damp, especially early on, but as nearby plants start to draw moisture (and nutrients) from the composter, you may notice it drying out more quickly. Be sure to monitor moisture levels regularly and water as needed.

Refreshing

As the level of finished castings builds up in the system, you can transfer some directly into the garden nearby, and then replace with new bedding and food. This helps to refresh habitat quality for the worms, and keeps the system working well for longer. And don't worry - any worms that end up in the garden can easily find their way back to the composter!

Emptying

At the end of your garden season, the contents of the system can be emptied into a backyard composter, or used to start up a new indoor worm bin!



Learn More About In-Ground Vermicomposting!

For a more in-depth exploration of in-ground vermicomposting and the use of Plastia's In-Ground Worm Composter, be sure to check out the "The Plastia In-Ground Worm Composter" article at PacificComposting.ca!

