



Garden Feeding Station

For Putting Compost Worms Into Gardens

(For Pet Waste Composting Also See Extra Info)

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Hi !

Thanks for buying worms from me.

For further information about raising worms, links to information and how-to videos

on my YouTube channel, books, courses, worm farm plans etc go to www.TheWormMan.com.au

I sell many different worm farms, for different purposes, and have a lot of good info listed on my website. There's also TONS on my Youtube channel.

I sell composting worms and also large BAIT WORMS for fishing.

If you're interested in looking at more info, or starting a worm farm yourself then that is the place to start :)

Putting Composting Worms Into Your Garden

To use composting worms in your garden, you have to setup some conditions for them.

The easiest trick I can teach you is to use a garden feeding station.

This is basically a bucket buried in the garden where you feed the worms food and bedding and they use it as a "base" to work out from.

Here's a link to my Youtube video showing mine in the garden:

<http://thewormman.com.au/garden-feeding-station>



How To Setup The Feeding Station:

Dig The Hole:

Locate a good position - if you can, place the Garden Feeding Station in a shady spot - possibly next to or under an established plant.

Dig a hole to suit the size of the bucket.

Bury the bucket so the top row of airholes (under the lip of the bucket) is ABOVE ground level.

Put the starter bedding in - to a depth of about 15-20 cm

Put some moistened BEDDING in the bottom - fill about 3/4 of the bucket. About 3/4 of the total bedding is a neutral source like cardboard and newspaper - and for the other 1/4 of the bedding, use something "microbial" such as old leaves or old grass.

The cardboard is best from brown cardboard boxes, ripped into about palm sized pieces. Toilet paper tubes and egg cartons are also great. Make this about 10 -15 cm deep.

Then put some moistened ripped newspaper balls in there. Just rip the newspaper from the spine into strips, moisten it and ball it up about as big as a tennis ball. Put about 4 or 6 balls in.

Put a good shake of worm farm conditioner in on top.

Hide The Garden Feeding Station - And protect the worms from the sun

You may not want to see the top of the bucket. Hide it by planting a plant in a pot saucer and placing this over the lid of the bucket. This also helps keep the sun and the heat off the bucket for the benefit of the worms living there.

Feeding & Care:

Basically only feed about 1 to 2 cups of food at a time, each week, in the "pocket feeding manner".

When you see them eating all of the food from 2 weeks before, increase the feeding size or frequency.

Further instructions, hints & tips: You should also have been given a copy of my composting worm instructions, "Quick Start Instructions For Composting Worms" - please read that for tips on feeding and many other things.

How To Harvest The Bucket:

Basically, the process is to remove the top "half" and set that aside – this will have most of the worms in it. Then you remove the VC from the bottom and put that aside – this will have few worms in it and can be used on your garden or potted plants. (There's a video at www.thewormman.com.au/garden)

Starting The Bucket Again After Harvest:

Replace the half a bucket of material you set aside (that used to be the "top" of the bedding.) Then continue as before.

The Next Best Things You Can Do For Worms In Your Garden:

To attract and support earth worms into the garden and to help the composting worms in the Garden Feeding Station, create conditions suitable for earthworms in your garden.

Mulch:

Yes, our old friend mulch. Mulch helps retain moisture, insulates the ground from the heat and breaks down to supply food for the worms and the other bugs and organisms that inhabit the soil.

Mulch the garden with something that will break down and feed worms in your garden - both composting worms and soil dwellers.

Great choices are lucerne mulch and sugar cane mulch. But other options are any old cheap hay or straw - you can often find rain damaged stuff quite cheap. You can also use grass clippings from your yard (but be careful not to place too many on at once as they heat up). Mulch needs to be about 5cm thick.

If you wanted to put down wood chips instead for the "look" of them - I would advise mulching with Lucerne or sugar cane FIRST then putting wood chips on top of that. Wood chips ARE good for longer term mulching, but on the first application they won't break down quickly enough to feed the soil food web.

Moisture:

Worms - and all the other microorganisms in the soil food web - need moisture to survive. Just like your plants. So keep the garden nice and moist.

Plant Lots Of Plants

Planting lots of plants in the garden will help keep the garden soil cooler. It makes a better habitat for the worms.

Use "Organic Matter" As Fertilisers

Adding organic matter to your garden as a fertiliser is a great way to help out the worms and other micro organisms. It is MUCH better than using chemical fertilisers which have an impact on the soil micro organisms. Good options are compost and worm castings/vermicompost.

Chemicals

Using less chemicals will help the micro organisms in your soil prosper. Chemicals have been shown to reduce a soil's fertility.

Chemical fertilisers also make plants weaker and more dependant on chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Whereas a good microbially rich compost or worm castings/vermicompost feed the soil food web, strengthen plants and increase their resistance to pests, meaning less pesticides need to be used.

Drawing In Native Earthworms

All of the things mentioned above will also help draw in and nourish native earthworms - and help them to grow and prosper.

Have a read of my other info piece (attached) about raising composting worms. You may like to also have a composting worm farm. There's TONS of info on my website and Youtube channel.

I even have a free Frequently Asked Questions Guide available on my website.

You can also ask me a question through my website (search it for "ask a question").

Thanks for buying your worms from me. Good luck and happy gardening !!!

regards,

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