

WHY HAVE A WORM FARM ?

By Katherine Northey



Building your Worms a Home

There are many different types of media that can be used to create a worm farm. The following are just some of the options available that are economical as well as accessible to the average householder.

- ⇒ Old bath and laundry tubs
- ⇒ Stainless steel/enamel washing machine bowls, sinks and old feed troughs
- ⇒ Discarded water tanks
- ⇒ Rubbish bins
- ⇒ Nursery trays
- ⇒ Styrofoam boxes
- ⇒ Wooden crates where hot paraffin wax has been used to seal the gaps

It is advisable to thoroughly clean all media before use. This can be achieved by making a paste with bi-carbonate soda and water, then following with a rinse of vinegar. Don't be alarmed when the mixture froths and bubbles! These are both non-toxic to you and the worms.

Today there are many pre-made worm farms available on the retail market. They are easy to use and reasonably priced for the average consumer and many are suited for smaller areas and apartment use. There is a worm farm suited to match every situation and personality.

Keep a look out for next issue -

How to Build a Worm Farm

What do you call it when worms take over the world?
Global Warming.

About the Author

Katie is one of our vibrant horticulture locals who is presently finalizing her book on Worm Farming. With a Diploma in Horticulture and Diploma in Landscaping she is well qualified to offer advice on getting the best results in your garden.

When first introduced to composting worms I was slightly hesitant to delve my clean hands into a bath full of slimy worms and their droppings. Seven years later, you can't keep me away! Once you've created your own worm farm you'll never be able to live without one.

Not only will you be helping the environment but you'll also be helping yourself.

Over 30% of all household rubbish is 'green' waste (organic matter) that can be composted and re-used for a productive purpose. Not only will you be creating a living eco-system but you will also be creating a thread of self-sufficiency for you and your family. By doing this you will be helping to reduce:

- * Transport, packaging and labor energy required to pack and ship fertilizers etc
- * Less plastic is being produced to bag these items
- * Less cardboard is being produced to package
- * Less truck, boat, plane emissions to transport
- * Less greenhouse gases and
- * Less collective energy is being wasted to create, in most cases, an inorganic chemical.

The Egyptian Pharaoh, Cleopatra, said "Earthworms are sacred". She recognized the role the earthworm played in fertilizing the Nile Valley croplands after annual floods.

Benefits for the Garden

Worm castings are recognized throughout the world as the richest natural, chemical free plant food known to man. (WonderwormUk.com.2008)

Castings are odorless, non-toxic and are suitable to use on all plants, including delicate seedlings.