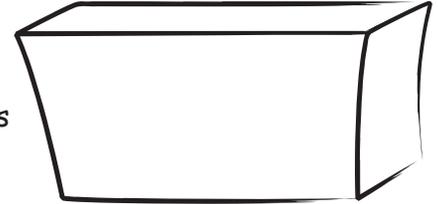


Worm Composter

Use worms to turn kitchen scraps into compost.

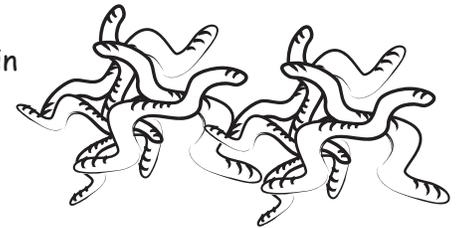
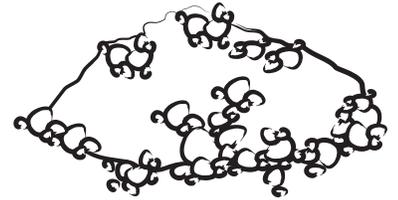
Here's what you need:

- * Plastic box (about 2 x2 feet for 2 people or 2 x3 for four people, 8 to 12 inches deep)
- * One pound of red worms can process about a half pound of kitchen scraps per day
- * Bedding of shredded paper or cardboard
- * Kitchen scraps (lettuce leaves, broccoli stems, coffee grounds, egg shells)
- * Soil
- * Water



To Build:

- * Drill holes in the bottom of the container.
- * Fill with moistened bedding. Add peat moss or leaf mold to increase water retention.
- * Mix in a couple of handfuls of soil the worms need for grit. Occasionally add a pulverized egg shell for calcium and grit.
- * Place red worms in bedding.
- * Bury kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters with the bedding in one corner of the box and cover loosely with black plastic.
- * Place the next installment of kitchen scraps next to the first. Continue this pattern placing the raw materials in an unused portion of the bedding.
- * Moisten as needed to keep bedding moist but not soggy.
- * Add fresh bedding every four months or when you have more worm castings than bedding.
- * Dump the compost out of bin onto plastic sheet
- * Create several cones of worm castings.
- * Shine a light on the cones for 5 to 10 minutes to drive worms down into the piles
- * Harvest the outer layer of castings and repeat until only the worms remain



Then start the process again by reassembling a fresh new worm bin. Use extra worms (these well-fed worms have been multiplying) for fishing, or share with friends who want to start their own worm farm.

Use worm casting as a slow release organic fertilizer for your container gardens. You will be amazed at the impact such little critters can have on your garden.

