

EDUCATIONAL WORM FARM FOR SCHOOLS

This worm farm bin is provided to promote the recycling of waste food and paper keeping these resources out of trash cans and our landfill. It can show how composting worms can convert these resources into an organic soil amendment to nourish plants. These worm castings or poop have an almost magical effect on plants providing nutrients in a safe form along with beneficial bacteria and fungi that enhance growth and inhibit diseases. If managed by you and your students properly it will not produce any odor or nuisance pests. Castings actually have a pleasant earthy odor. It will be an environment that will contain bacteria, fungi and other organisms that will aid in the decomposition, but they will remain in the moist environment of the bin. Not much different than the soil in a potted plant. The maintenance of the bin will require very little time. The worms will only need to be checked and fed once or twice a week, and harvest of the compost or castings once or twice a year.

This bin is a clear storage tote allowing the worms to be temporarily visible on the edges when the informational panels on the edges are lowered. They will then move away from the light. Normally totes used as worm bins would be opaque, but this one is clear so the worms and decomposition will be visible on the edges where they are fed. Other bins are fed by burying the food in the bedding in different areas on the surface.

This bin will come set up with a few inches of bedding, 2 cups of Red Wigglers, 1 cup of European Nightcrawlers, a layer of shredded cardboard and paper on the surface covered with bubble wrap and a sheet of cardboard. The bedding will consist of moist shredded paper and cardboard with coconut coir, garden lime or powdered eggshells and a little fine sand for grit. An initial feeding of produce scraps will be included on the edges where the worms should be visible as a panel is lowered. As this food decomposes and is consumed you should gather more for a future feedings. Initially this will be a quart to a half gallon per week. They will be fine over school breaks as they feed on the bedding as well, but summer care will be required. We hope you continue to use this in future years or find it a home in another classroom.