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WORMS

Each box contains approximately 1000 worms (250grams). Worm population will double every 4-6 weeks under optimal conditions. We recommend 1000 worms per person in your household.

Feed them foodscraps, shredded paper/cardboard, aged lawn clippings, manures, teabags, almost anything organic. Avoid feeding them animal products such as dairy, or meat, and oil, which may attracts flies etc. Don't feed them citrus and onions (bad for their stomachs). Chop up food into small pieces and soak well before feeding to worms. Worms don't have teeth so the softer and mushier the better!

Common problems with worm farms:

1. Overfeeding...if you give them more than 2-3 days of food, the excess food may turn anaerobic producing a bad smell and toxic environment for your worms. (A worm will eat its own body weight each day or 2).
2. Too dry or too wet... the worm farm should drain well, but should be watered every day or two. 80% moisture is ideal. If the bedding becomes too dry the worms may leave. This is a common problem where there are trees nearby which suck up all the ground moisture.
3. Too hot... never leave worm farm in the sun. Never add more than a couple of inches of fresh green manure/grassclippings/food scraps as this will become hot through the thermophilic composting process.

NB: Returning your styrene box will save this non-degradable material from entering fragile ecosystems. For your trouble, please take \$2.50 worth of product from our stand as a refund.

CASTINGS:

Worm castings are the secretions left by worms after they have digested organic matter. Vermicompost is castings plus small traces of composted matter which have not been completely broken down. Both are high value slow release soil conditioners which add life to soils and greatly increase plant growth and vitality. Beneficial micro organism numbers are hundreds of times higher than the soil and organic matter the worm ingests. Each worm may have hundreds of millions of beneficial bacteria and fungi in their gut which are deposited in the castings.

You only need add 25-50% castings to your soil or potting mix to attain maximum effect. Worm castings will last up to six times longer than most potting mixes, retain their nutrients and can be used repeatedly.

Castings typically contain; 5 times the available nitrogen, 7 times the available potash and 3 times the calcium, magnesium and sulphur found in good topsoil. Castings will hold 2-3 times their weight in water. This means you use less water, and only need to water half as often. Worm castings will not burn your plants, unlike some animal manures and chemical fertilisers. Castings contain Humic acid which provides binding sites for plant nutrients such as calcium, iron, potassium, sulphur, and phosphorus. Nutrients are encased in mucus membranes secreted by the worms, which dissolve slowly rather than immediate nutrient leaching as with chemical fertilisers. This is an environmentally safe product as nutrients will not leach into the water table. Castings have excellent soil structure, generally neutral ph, high

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porosity, aeration and can insulate plants from extreme temperatures. Castings are suitable for all plants but work best with exotics.

DIRECTIONS: Add castings/vermicompost to sandy loam, potting mixes or existing soil to make a high quality potting mix or soil at a rate of 1:1 or 1:2. Alternatively dig in 5-10mm layer as a top dressing. Water in and mulch well. Dig in a bag when transplanting deciduous trees. An amount the size of a golf ball will keep a rose bush going for up to a year!

Disclaimer: Vermicastings/vermicompost may contain occasional fragments of foreign matter.

WORM JUICE:

A liquid form of castings, Worm Juice is made by collecting the leachate which seeps through the worm beds. This potent 'juice' is then pumped through the beds repeatedly to increase potency. Use as a convenient plant food by adding a litre to a 9 litre watering can. Plants treated with Worm Juice and Castings/Vermicompost are larger, grow faster and more vigorously and fruit and veges treated with worm juice actually taste better. Worm Juice and Castings/Vermicompost help plants to repel insect attack. Nematodes and diseases will not ruin plants if the soil is rich enough for the plants to grow fast. Worm Juice is a great rejuvenating therapy for tired or sick pot plants or trees.

DIRECTIONS: DILUTE 1:10 Apply every 1-2 weeks for veges and seedlings, or until plant vitality is restored. For small plants and 6" potplants a cup of diluted liquid each week will suffice. Dilute 1:20 and water lawns fortnightly. To really kick plants along try a Dilution of 1:5. Store in a cool dark place. Apply a

watering can of diluted mix to deciduous and fruit trees. Repeat monthly during growing and fruiting season or until vitality is restored. BROADACRE: Apply 5 litres (diluted 1:10) per hectare through a boomspray

TYPICAL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS: WORMJUICE: (mg per litre)

Nitrate Nitrogen	340
Total Phosphorus as P	59
Total Potassium as K	650
Calcium as Ca	350
Magnesium as Mg	270
Sulphur /Sulphates	840
Total Boron as B	0.7
Total Copper as Cu	0.1
Total Zinc as Zn	0.09
Total Iron as Fe	0.19
Total Manganese as Mn	0.15

NB: micronutrient levels in wormjuice are lower than chemical fertilisers but are in a form readily absorbed by plants. But the real magic in worm juice and castings is the vast populations of beneficial fungi and bacteria they add to the soil.