# **COMPOSTING HUB**

#### Sydney Road Community School

Rear 350 Sydney Road, Brunswick



#### DON'T OVERFEED

Please distribute your food waste across all of the bins.

If there is already enough feed [max 50mm thick] in all of the bins please don't add more - take your food waste with you and dispose of it at home.

### **ADD CARBON**

Add paper and cardboard to your food caddy, and bring some with you when contributing to the hub. There is also shredded paper provided, so make sure you ALWAYS put in carbon when adding food scraps.

### **CRUSH YOUR EGGSHELLS**

Egg shells are great for the system but worms can't break them down, so please crush up egg shells before adding.

### NO BIO BAGS

Don't put bio bags or any non-organic waste into the worm farms, they don't break down in these systems.

### **UPDATES**

Keep an eye out for updates from the hub managers to ensure the community composting hub continues to be a success!

# LOVE YOUR WORMS



Worms are hard workers, processing your food 'waste' into nutrient rich plant food and soil conditioner.

Here are a few tips on how to keep them happy!

### **WORM FARM INPUTS**

40 - 50%

50 - 60%

AS NEEDED

Nitrogen

Carbon

Water

Food scraps Green waste Paper, cardboard hay

Sprinkle water when adding carbon to moisten

Spread feed layer evenly: keep less than 50mm thick

# YES PLEASE!



Most fruit and vegaies



toilet rolls



Teabags



tissues



Coffee arounds



Vacuum dust



Egg shells



Uncoated paper

# NO THANKS!



Citrus Pineapple



Onion, garlic Spicy foods



Bread, pasta, processed food



Dairy Oils



Meat Fish

# TOP TIPS FOR HAPPY WORMS



### KEEP IT COOL

Heat is the number one enemy of worms. Keep your worm farm out of the sun, somewhere that stays cool.

In very hot weather take action - keep a frozen bottle of water buried in the top of the farm until the weather cools.

#### NOT TOO MUCH

Overfeeding can lead to an unbalanced, air-starved environment, with food rotting before the worms can eat it.

Spread the food out and keep the feed layer no more than 50mm thick.

## **BALANCE IS KEY**

Keeping a balance between nitrogen [food scraps] and carbon [paper and cardboard] will ensure a happy worm farm.

Whenever you add nitrogen, add as much [or more] carbon - easy!

## FLUFF IT!

Worms need to breathe, so let the oxygen flow. Give the top 2-3 inches a fluff up every now and then with a fork to let the air in.

Adding paper and cardboard also keeps the feed layer open and airy.

### **PESTS**

A worm farm is a natural environment and will attract other living beings. Some insects may be a sign of imbalance - ants can mean too dry, flies can mean too much food waste and not enough carbon.

Check our FAQs page for details of pest management.

### **SMELLS**

A healthy worm farm will only smell like rich soil. If you have acrid or rotting smells then too much food waste and not enough carbon has been added.

Add a lot of carbon, give it a good mix and fluff it up to let the air in.

We regularly update the education area on our website, which includes answers to frequently asked questions, troubleshooting tips and videos.

Check it out and join the conversation!