



# Worm Farm Facts



- ❖ Vermiculture is the raising of earthworms under a controlled environment
- ❖ Vermicomposting is the process of recycling material into something very useful, by using worms.

*“What a good feeling to find out that there’s a way to change what we think of as totally useless into something VERY useful and it has been under our feet since the beginning of time.”*





# Worm Facts

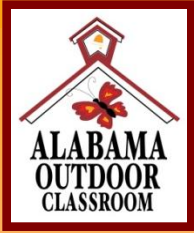


**Worms are part of the animal kingdom...**

**These are called *Eisenia Fetida* but you may know them as:**



- ☛ **Red Worm**
- ☛ **Tiger Worm**
- ☛ **Red Wiggler**



# Worm Farm Facts

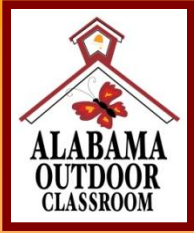


## What will Worms Eat?

### Green Waste:

- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Produce waste from grocery stores
- ✓ Pumas from all fruit crops
- ✓ Coffee grounds-but not too much!
- ✓ Most Left over food from your school lunch





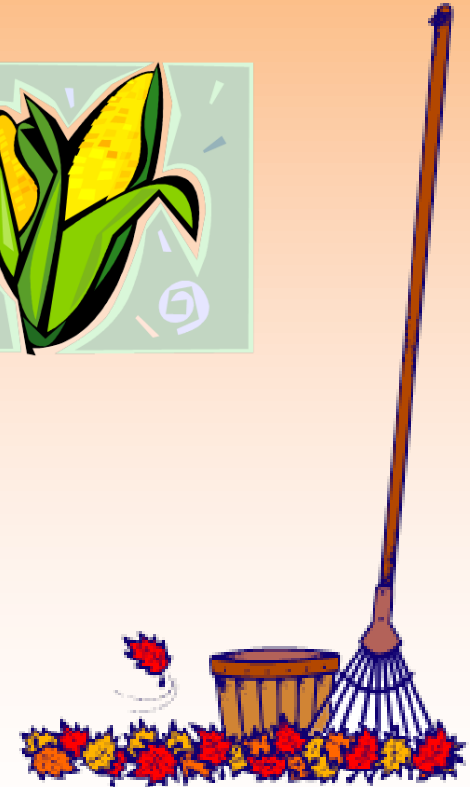
# Worm Farm Facts



## What will Worms Eat?

### Brown Waste:

- ✓ Wood
- ✓ Sawdust
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Corn cobs /shucks
- ✓ Crushed Egg Shells & A little bit of Sand





# Worm Farm Facts



**What Not to Feed Worms !**  
**Even though worms will eat almost anything there are some things that are best to avoid:**

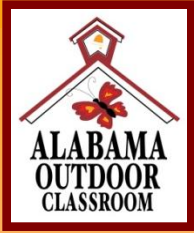
**No! Meat**

**No! Oil – like salad dressings**

**No! Any kind of fat –meat or vegetable**

**NO!**





# Worm Farm Facts

## What Does A Worm Produce With All That Eating?



**A very beneficial substance known as WORM CASTINGS!**

*(AKA... worm dirt... worm manure... or worm "poop"...)*

- ✓ **Are Nature's Natural Fertilizer-no chemicals needed!**
- ✓ **Provides nutrients (food) for plants**
- ✓ **Retains water for soil so plants can grown even when it doesn't rain!**
- ✓ **Helps plants resist diseases so they grow faster & stronger**
- ✓ **Environmentally friendly - created from 100% recycled materials**
- ✓ **Naturally insulates plant roots & reduces soil erosion**
- ✓ **Breaks up hard clay soil so plants can grow faster & bigger**



# Worm Farm Facts

## How to Begin your Worm Farm:

1. Get a plastic bin – fill it with shredded newspaper & a small amount of compost, peat moss or dirt

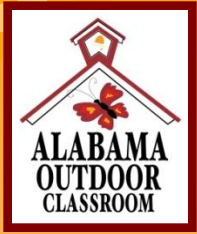


2. Add worms

3. Start adding food scraps – Up to 5 lbs. Per week

Watch Them Go To WORK!





# Worm Farm Facts

## Building a Worm Farm:

*What kind of container can I use?*



- ✓ Plastic or wood container with a lid
- ✓ Small enough for you to handle but big enough for your worms (shoebox or larger)

*Ventilation is the key to success!*

- ✓ Drill holes for drainage and air
- ✓ NEVER put the lid on tight!

*Container should be dark! Worms like it dark!*



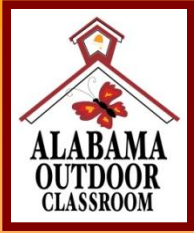


# Worm Farm Facts

## Prepare the Bedding:



- ✓ Bedding holds moisture and provides air spaces for the worms.
- ✓ Shredded paper is a good choice for bedding, others are leaves, sawdust, or peat moss.
- ✓ Before placing bedding in the bin, be sure it is good and moist!
- ✓ Add a small amount of sand or crushed egg shells for grit.

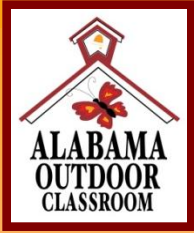


# Worm Farm Facts

## Add the Worms!



- ✓ Red Worms
- ✓ Red Wigglers
- ✓ Manure Worms
- ✓ Night Crawlers **WILL NOT** survive in a worm bin!

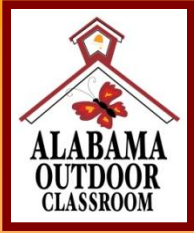


# Worm Farm Facts

## Keep it Up!

- ✓ Keep an eye on the amount of food and adjust if needed.
- ✓ Keep it moist!
- ✓ If it is too moist, add more bedding.
- ✓ Running out of room? Time to harvest your worms!
- ✓ Remove the remaining contents of the bin (castings) & use them on your houseplants, garden, yard, trees.
- ✓ Worms can double in population every 3 to 6 months under the right conditions
- ✓ If they get too crowded they stop eating. So share some worms with a friend!





# Worm Farm Facts

## The DON'Ts!

- ✓ Don't feed the worms things that are not edible. (plastic, rubber bands, foil)
- ✓ Don't let your cat use it as a litter box!
- ✓ Don't spray bug spray near your bin!
- ✓ Don't use garden soil
- ✓ Don't use straight manure in your bin!

