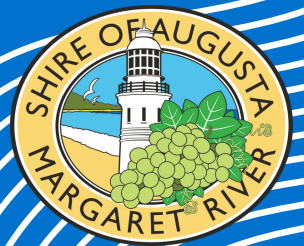


Tiered Worm Farm

A guide to successfully setting it up



A tiered worm farm is a stand-alone container system for composting kitchen scraps, with a tap at the bottom for collecting liquid fertiliser. The top level is where the bedding material can be added, the middle level is where everything gets broken down further, while the bottom level is where the liquid collects. When you pour water through the top, it moves through each level and as it percolates through the middle layers, the water collects beneficial microbes and nutrients. TIP: you may need to water your worms daily in summer and once per week in winter.

How to get started

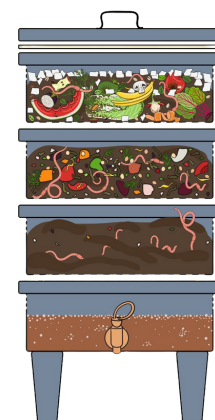
- 1 Select a spot in your garden that is easily accessible - make sure you are happy with the location before assembling as it may be too heavy to move.
- 2 Assemble your worm farm according to the instructions. Consider propping one side of your farm up so the liquid can drain out easily.
- 3 Place cardboard or newspaper on the base of the first working tray. Add chosen bedding material followed by the worms.
- 4 Ensure the tap is fully open with a container underneath. Pour approximately 4 litres of water over the bedding material and worms. Cover with a worm blanket and allow one or two days before feeding so the worms can settle in. Their first feed should be approximately 1 cup of finely chopped food for 1kg of worms. You can increase this amount once the worms have settled in. Make sure the food scraps are buried.
- 5 Add the second working tray when the first tray is almost full. Add a 5cm layer of bedding material to the new tray, top up with a handful of worms and castings taken from your first tray and continue feeding as required.
- 6 After several months, most of the worms will be in the second working tray. When this tray is almost full, you can remove the bottom tray and use the castings in your garden. Keep the first tray to one side until the second tray is full of castings and repeat from step 5.

Worms love:

- ✓ Leftovers (raw and cooked)
- ✓ Veggie scraps
- ✓ Tea bags & coffee grounds
- ✓ Animal and human hair
- ✓ Paper and tissues
- ✓ Straw and garden scraps
- ✓ Natural fibre clothing

Worms hate:

- ✗ Citrus peel
- ✗ Onion
- ✗ Garlic
- ✗ Dairy
- ✗ Meat



Troubleshooting

- Smelly worm farm? It might have excess food and not enough aeration. Stop adding food, sprinkle some lime and gently aerate your farm by turning over the top layer.
- Ants? The bedding material is too dry or acidic. Add water and lime and ensure food is buried.
- Worms in the bottom liquid tray? This is usually caused by high temperatures. Add a layer of newspaper soaked in water and consider adding ice blocks or frozen water bottles in hot temperatures.