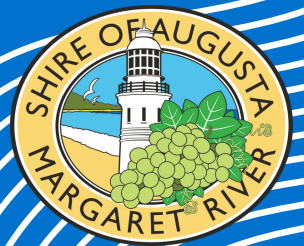


In-ground Worm Farm

A guide to successfully setting it up



Worm farming is another way to recycle your food scraps by feeding them to hungry worms. Worms are nature's recyclers and their poo (castings) is great for gardens, making worm farming increasingly popular. By providing worms with an in-ground feeding station in your garden, you'll get many of the benefits of worm farming without the work of maintaining an enclosed free-standing system. In-ground feeding stations allow naturally occurring garden worms to move in, feed, then move out again to disperse rich organic matter into the root zone of your plants. As they burrow, garden worms also create tunnels that loosen and aerate the soil, improving oxygen and water infiltration, which improves root growth and plant health.

How to get started

- 1 Select a spot in your garden that is easily accessible and close to plants that will benefit from rich nutrients and soil improvement.
- 2 Wet the soil first as it's easier to dig and then dig a hole a little larger in diameter than that of your feeding station and almost as deep as the height of the station.
- 3 With the lid on, place your worm feeding station into the hole to check the depth - only 3 to 5cm of the station should remain above the surface. With the lid still in place, backfill around the feeding station using the previously removed soil.
- 4 Over time the station will attract naturally occurring earthworms from the garden, but for the best results we recommend adding some composting worms (between a handful to ½ kg should be enough), to speed up the breakdown of organic material. Composting worms will also breed inside the station, so you'll have more worms to start new feeding stations in the future.
- 5 Before placing compost worms into the feeding station, add some bedding material 5cm deep - castings, shredded cardboard soaked in water, wet newspaper and/or most coir.
- 6 Cover worms with a layer of wet newspaper, replace the lid and wet the soil around the feeding station to maintain a moist environment that worms require. Leave them to settle in for a day or two. Then start adding food scraps - it will take time for your worms to multiply so initial processing will be slow but will speed up over time.

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.