

Building your Worm Farm

Grab a big Styrofoam box, with holes or without. If yours has no holes, punch a garden hose sized hole about 5cm from the base. If your DOES have holes, you will need to find a big tray or plastic box lid to place beneath your box to catch the worm juice.

Line the bottom of the box with shade cloth, hessian, an old towel or something similar. This will stop worms and soil from falling out of the box.

Place a good thick layer of coir into the box, followed by shredded paper. This will be your worm bed. If you would like to, place a container in the middle, upside down. This will be a worm island just in case your worm farm gets flooded.

Place scraps into the farm and a handful of worms. Water thoroughly. Worms need their food to be nice and moist.

Place lid back on your box.

Place the worm farm in a position so worms can be cool in summer and warm in winter. This is very important whilst they are still only in the first tray. Remember they are pets just like any other animal you keep at home and need you to provide the best conditions for them to live in.

Feed them the right sort of food eg: veg (not high acid so no tomatoes, onion, capsicum), anything that was once alive eg newspaper, hair, clothes made of cotton or wool. Worms have little jaws and love moist food so if you can chop or process the food for them and make sure it is damp they will yum it up! Damp is essential chopping is not. Use Google to research more about ideal compost worm foods, tumbleweed has some good information.

Slowly increase the amount of food you feed them as the worms breed up but don't overfeed them. If the scraps are going rotten before they are eaten feed less.

When your first layer of the worm farm is full get another veg box, build the same as this one with shade cloth etc and add on top. When you have two full layers and are feeding in the third you can use the first layer. It should be all castings by this stage and can be used to fertilize the garden or potting mix.

Make sure that you Water down the juice so it looks like a weak cup of tea and use to feed pot plants and plants in your garden. If you don't dilute the worm juice, the richness of the worm wee can kill your plants.

