



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE

Worms eat two times their body weight each day.

1 lb./worms = 1,000 worms (1 16 worms “eat ” 2 lbs./food)

Red worms (a lot smaller than earthworms) are great composters—the biggest eaters. They will come to an outdoor compost bin and also can be ordered.

Worms:

- * have no eyes, no ears, no teeth
- * have 5 hearts, breathe through their skin
- * lay eggs (cocoons) inside cocoon are 2-3 baby worms
- * cocoon is shaped like a lemon—worms come out ends
- * Can often see cocoons in healthy soil—look like little styrofoam pieces in potting mix—except they are goldish in color.
- * Wastes of worms make excellent fertilizer
- * Myth: You really can ' t cut an earthworm (or red worm) in half and have each end grow back.
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Good in compost bin: fruits, vegetables, egg shells (calcium from egg shells needed by worms)

Not good: meat, bread, cheese

Bury foods—keeps animals away

Compost can be mixed with soil (about 1 part compost to 3 parts soil)

If you have an inside composter, you need a place for the liquid to drain out—liquid is great fertilizer

(again, 1 part compost to 3 parts soil)

Turn material in compost bin to aerate.

If wastes (banana peels, apple cores, etc.) are thrown in a landfill—will not decompose to aid soil not enough air and water in a landfill—it is packed too tightly. People have dug up landfill areas 5-10 years later and found banana peels not even partially decomposed.

Composting is important because it puts nutrients that plants need to grow back into the soil.