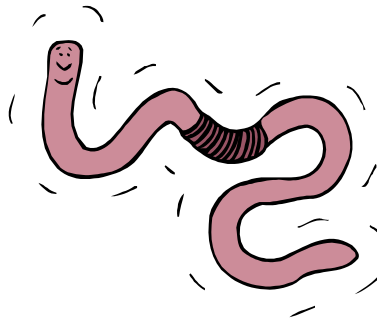




JASMINE HILL

Gardens and Outdoor Museum

HORTICULTURE



Wonderful Worms

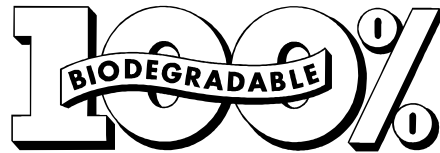
Worms are good for your garden.

Earthworms break down soil and organic matter by eating it, working it through their bodies, and passing it out as nutrient-rich wormcasts or manure.

While they burrow down through the earth, they also make tunnels that allow air(oxygen) to get to the plant roots.

These tunnels also enable water to filter down to the roots during periods of rain and moisture to drain away quickly so the soil does not become soggy.

Earthworms are important to trees because their burrows let air into the soil around the roots. They also drag fallen leaves underground, returning minerals to where the roots can reach them.



A Compost Bin

You can make a compost bin or can purchase one from a nursery. You can use a large plastic bin with the bottom cut out.

You will need:

- A large plastic bin with a lid
- Compost materials, chopped up finely
- Worms
- Water

Compost materials are:

- Vegetable peels and scraps
- Fruit peels and scraps
- Used tea bags
- Egg cartons
- Animal manure: horse, cow, or chicken
- Autumn leaves
- Plant prunings
- Lawn clippings

Materials to avoid:

- Diseased plants
- Weeds that grow from a bulb – if any weeds you pull up have a swelling like a tiny onion above the roots, don't add them to your bin
- Meat scraps
- Fatty scraps
- Bones