

Worm Farming (Vermicomposting)

Turn scraps into rich castings using composting worms

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Ongoing system
TIME 2–3 months to first harvest



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Easy



TIME
2–3 months



COST
Low–moderate
(worms + bin)



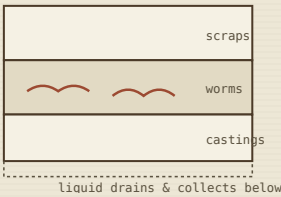
BEST SEASON
Year-round,
sheltered from
extremes



FREQUENCY
Feed weekly

01 A layered worm tower

A worm farm works in layers: fresh scraps go in the top, worms migrate up to feed, and finished castings collect below — with liquid worm 'tea' draining out the bottom as a bonus liquid fertiliser.



02 What you'll need

- A worm farm bin (tiered or single) or a DIY bin with drainage
- Composting worms (tiger worms or red wigglers — not ordinary garden earthworms)
- Bedding material (damp shredded paper or coconut coir)
- A steady supply of kitchen scraps

03 Method

1. Set up the bin with moist bedding material as a starting base.
2. Add worms and let them settle for a few days before feeding heavily.
3. Feed small amounts of chopped kitchen scraps weekly, burying them slightly under bedding.
4. Keep the bin shaded and moist — worms are sensitive to heat, cold, and drying out.
5. Harvest castings every 2–3 months once a layer has matured, and drain liquid worm tea regularly.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Worms dying off** — usually too hot, too wet, too dry, or overfed; check conditions and reduce feeding.
- **Bad smell** — overfeeding or anaerobic conditions; feed less, improve drainage and airflow.
- **Fruit flies** — bury scraps properly under bedding rather than leaving them exposed.
- **Worms trying to escape** — usually a sign conditions are wrong (too wet, too acidic, too hot); check and adjust.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Set up any time; keep the bin in a shaded, temperature-moderate spot year-round.
DURATION	First harvestable castings typically after 2–3 months of steady feeding.
MAINTENANCE	Weekly feeding, occasional moisture checks, and periodic harvesting.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Dark, crumbly castings building up, with worms concentrated in the fresher feeding layer above.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Hot Composting

Compost Tea

COMMON MISTAKES

Overfeeding, leading to a smelly, anaerobic bin

Leaving the bin in full sun, overheating the worms

PRO TIP

Worm castings and worm tea are both excellent, concentrated additions — dilute worm tea before applying it directly to plants.