



DENVER RECYCLES
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

NEAT WORM COMPOSTING FACTS



Did you know that:

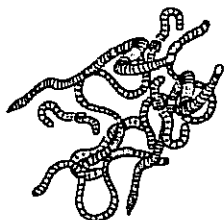
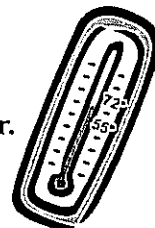


Composting with red wiggler worms allows everyone to compost non-meat food scraps year round. Neither weather nor lack of space prevents you from producing one of nature's richest soil amendments.



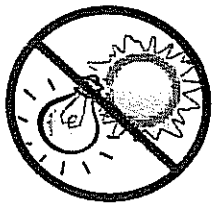
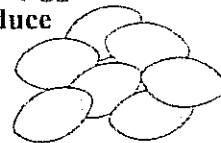
Worm boxes can be located inside, are odorless when well managed and utilize shredded newspaper and fall leaves as bedding material. Soil is not needed for burrowing.

Red wigglers' preferred temperature range is 55-72° F. Boxes can be moved outdoors in mid-spring, and stay there in the shade all summer then moved back inside before winter.

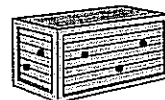


Worms are invertebrates, lacking bones and cartilage, are blind, breathe by absorbing oxygen through their moist skin, have no teeth, feed on decaying organic matter and microorganisms.

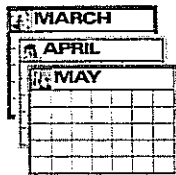
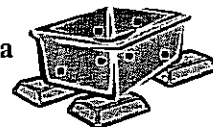
Worms possess both male and female reproductive organs but require a partner in order to reproduce. In worm box environments, with the proper bedding and food, worms can produce cocoons (egg cases) by six weeks of age. Each cocoon can have 3 to 5 live baby worms within it. Worms reproduce rapidly and can eat between 50 to 100% of their weight in food waste daily.



Worms are sensitive to light, and possess organs along their upper side that sense ultra-violet light. After prolonged exposure, breathing becomes depressed and the worm may die.



Worm bins can be made of wood or plastic but must have aeration holes drilled on the bottom and sides. Usually a 14 to 18 gallon colored plastic storage container makes an economical worm home. Elevating the bin with bricks under each corner and a drip pan underneath provides extra aeration. A worm bin will support up to one pound of red wigglers (or redworms) per square foot of surface area. An average family of four can create enough food waste per week to support a worm bin measuring 2 feet by 3 feet.



If worm boxes are managed properly, it only takes about 2 to 3 months to produce worm compost (castings).



Worm boxes can also be a great source of red wigglers for fishing.

