



HOW TO BUILD



A BOX WORMERY

**In Our
Nature** 



ABOUT MYCO



Myco works to connect people to land through the lens of fungi and ecology. We grow mushrooms, teach people how to grow mushrooms in the community and in schools, run foraging and ecology events, host volunteer sessions, and consult on all things fungal.

All life is dependant on soil, and fungi help create soil through breaking down organic matter. Worms also do this important work. Through this project, we see ourselves as partnering with worms and fungi to create soil.

This project has been supported by In Our Nature.

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WHAT IS SOIL?



Soil is not dirt - it is alive! It is the product of lots of living beings at work. Its is made from dead plants and animals that are being decomposed by worms, insects, and bacteria. It also contains minerals and other inorganic matter than come from rocks.

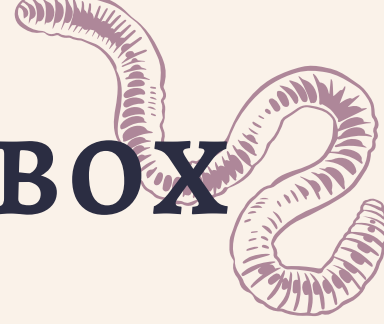
All life on land is completely dependant on the top 10cm of soil for all our food. It also provides a really important habitat for plants, animals and fungi.

Soil also stores carbon. The depletion of soil through soil erosion has a big negative impact on climate change, and can disrupt and damage habitats.

Food waste can be used to make compost, which can be used to add more nutrients to the soil in our gardens and growing spaces.

When food waste goes into landill, it decays without oxygen, forming methane. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, causing climate change. By composting food waste, we can help stop climate change.

MAKING A BOX WORMERY



It is very easy to make a wormery out of two storage boxes or two large buckets. These worm bins can be stored in the garden or even indoors!

You'll need:

- Two storage boxes or large buckets with lids
- A drill with bits
- Some bedding material (coir, shredded card, soil or leaf litter)
- Some red wiggler worms (*Eisenia fetida*) - other compost worms are available but may pose threats to soil ecology as invasive species

One box is left intact to collect worm tea, and the other is drilled with holes across the base and up the sides for air flow. Stack the holey box inside the other one, then fill with bedding, worms, and food waste. Every week or two, collect any worm tea from the bottom box and give it a rinse out with fresh water.

DRILLING AIRHOLES

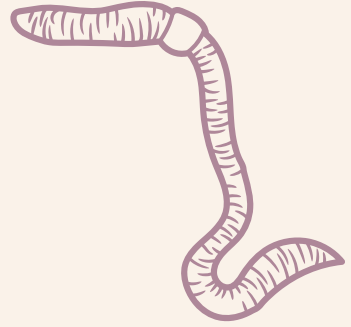


Drill holes in the bottom, sides, and lid of one box



Place the holey box inside the box with no holes

ADDING BEDDING



Mixing hydrated
coir with damp
shredded card

This is added to the
holey box



Add veg scraps and
worms!

WHAT DO MY WORMS EAT?

Feed lots of:

Tea bags + coffee grounds

Veg scraps

Crushed egg shells

Feed some of:

Bland foods, eg. bread and rice

Cooked veg

Shredded paper + card

Garden waste, eg. weeds

Don't feed:

Potato peels

Dairy

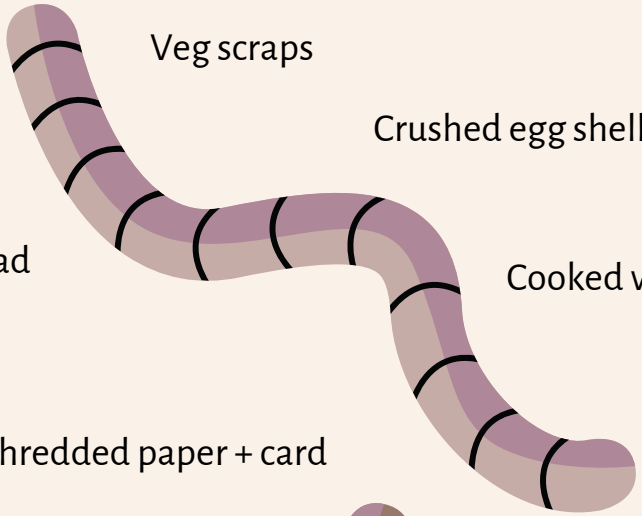
Woody material

Citrus

Meat

Uncooked onions and garlic

Oily and spicy food



WHAT HAPPENS IF THINGS GO WRONG?



SMELLY?

You might be feeding your worms too much!

You might be feeding your worms food they don't like

The bin might be too wet

Remove any uneaten food, refresh the bedding and check to see if the worms are still alive - add more if not!

TOO HOT?

Move your worm bins to a cooler + shadier spot

Add water or ice cubes to cool them down, make sure they don't get too wet

TOO COLD?

The worms might be slowing down due to colder weather, and the veg scraps might freeze.

Move the wormery to a warmer spot in the garden

Put some insulation around the wormery to keep them warm.