

Your worms are special compost worms, they are stripy.

A Worm's Life

All worms are *hermaphrodite* - they are both male and female. After they are 2 or 3 months old, they will have a 'saddle' on their backs.

They then lay eggs, or *cocoons*, one every 7-10 days.

The cocoons usually hatch out 4 tiny worms that look like miniature versions of their parents.

If everything goes really well, one worm could produce 1000 other worms in 6 months!



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**For more information about worms visit
www.askorganic.co.uk or email da@askorganic.co.uk**

For fresh supplies of worms email p60remf@btinternet.com or phone 01890 870247 or 07811870750.

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Reduce Reuse Recycle**



THE WORMERY



A Wormery is a special bin where worms make good compost out of our raw fruit and vegetable waste.

This Wormery has three baskets and a lid.

There is a *sump* at the bottom. This collects liquid from the baskets above. It has a tap for draining off the liquid. A coir brick, duvet "worm treats" and lime are included.

And, of course, the worms!

Put the Wormery in a cool place

Worms like a temperature of 15°C, so keep the wormery out of direct sunlight in summer and sheltered from frost during the winter. They will keep feeding between 12°C and 20°C. When the temperature is very low, the worms will hibernate, so obviously won't feed.

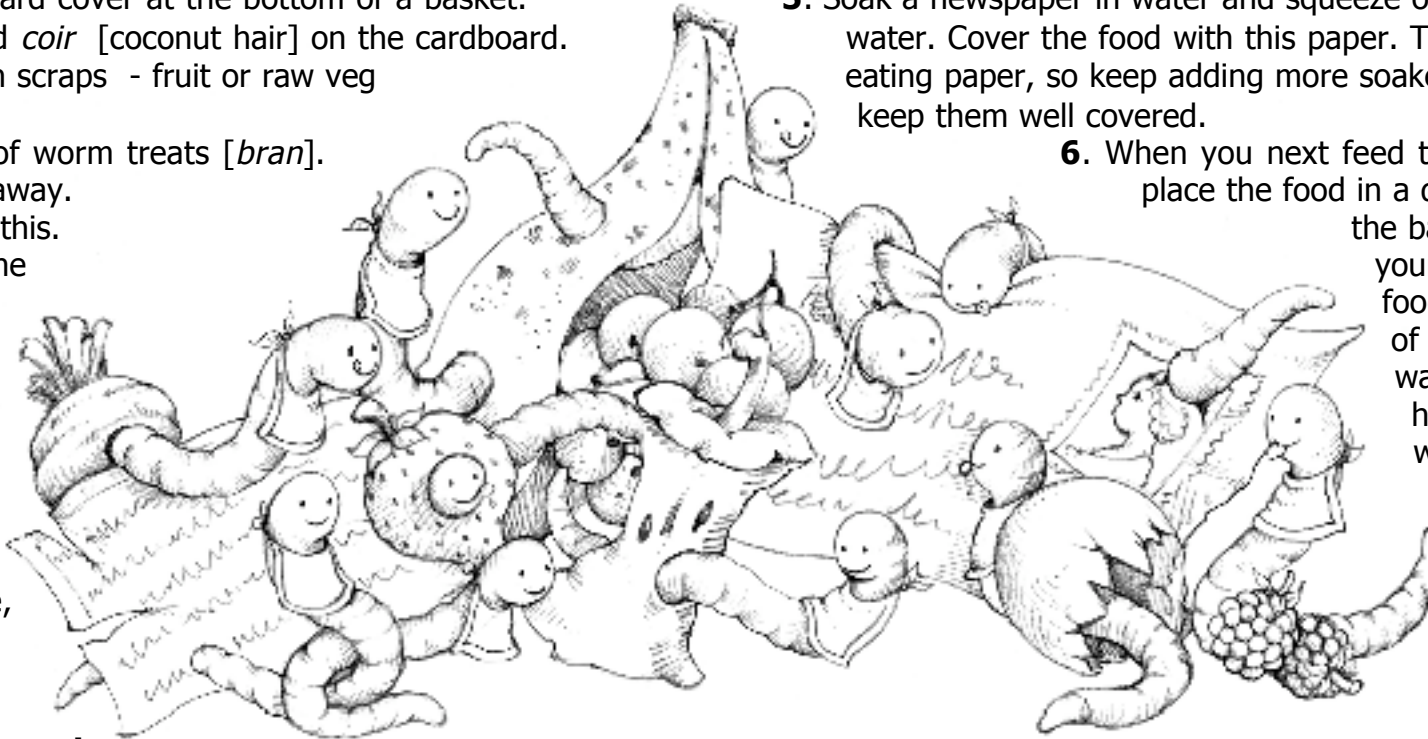
When the wormery is left outside, a lot of rain will get in, so keep the wormery in a shed or outhouse.

Setting up the Wormery

1. Place the cardboard cover at the bottom of a basket.
2. Place the soaked *coir* [coconut hair] on the cardboard.
3. Put some kitchen scraps - fruit or raw veg peelings on top.
4. Open the pack of worm treats [*bran*]. Add some straight away. The worms will eat this. They will only eat the food you give them when it has started to rot down.

Add in some eggshells.

Do not feed the worms with orange, grapefruit or lemon peel.



5. Soak a newspaper in water and squeeze out the excess water. Cover the food with this paper. The worms like eating paper, so keep adding more soaked paper to keep them well covered.

6. When you next feed the worms, place the food in a different part of the basket, and put your third lot of food in a final part of the basket. This way, you will see how well the worms are feeding.

Keep the wormery going

1. When the first basket is full to the top, take the damp newspaper off the food and put it to one side.
2. Place a second basket on top of the first one, making sure it sits firmly.
3. Add new scraps into the second basket and cover them with the newspaper. The worms will move between the baskets.
4. When the second basket is full, add the third one in the same way as before.
5. Within one or two weeks after adding the third basket, the bottom basket will have hardly any worms, so you can use its compost in the school garden.
6. Your worms will be really happy if you add a small handful of lime and bran treat every 2 weeks.
7. Use the liquid from the sump as a liquid feed. For every cup of liquid add 5 cups of water. Use this to water your plants, especially ones in tubs.