RECYCLING YOUR GREEN WASTE

COMPOSTING

Organic waste, such as fruit and vegetable scraps as well as lawn clippings and leave litter, make up about one half of the average household's waste. This waste can easily be diverted from landfill by using a compost bin.

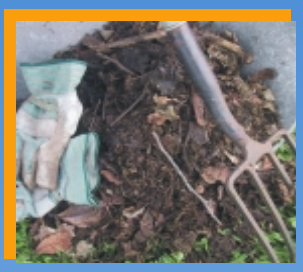
HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Choose a warm spot (ie. not full shade) where the compost will have direct contact with the ground.
- Place some coarse twigs on the bottom to help with drainage and air flow.
- Start filling the bin by layering a range of kitchen scraps and garden waste. The smaller the material, the faster it will break down.
- Moisten the material as you go, using your hose or tea and coffee leftovers.
- Cover the compost so that it does not dry out or get soggy with the weather.

2 weeks

KEEPING YOUR COMPOST HEALTHY

AIR: is essential to ensure your garden waste decomposes quickly into compost. Turn your compost every couple of weeks so that there is plenty of air moving around. Adding air also prevents odours



6 weeks

DIVERSITY: make sure there are a range of different organic materials in the compost i.e. food scraps, garden clippings, soil and paper.

MOISTURE: damp but not wet compost (like a well rung out sponge) works best.

8 weeks

USING YOUR COMPOST

- Use as a potting mix for seedlings.
- Dig in a layer of compost around plants (not too close to roots).
- Apply as a top dressing for lawns.

Remember:
No meat or dairy products. These take a long time to break down and can attract vermin, flies and ants.

NetWaste
A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Waste Enquires Dubbo: 6801 4000

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RECYCLING YOUR GREEN WASTE

WORM FARMING

Worm farming is a great alternative to composting and is ideal for those people who don't have enough room to compost but still want to reduce waste and help the environment.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Worm farming is easy. You can purchase a commercial worm farm and follow the manufacturer's set up instructions or build your own following these simple steps.

- You will need a box or container for your worms - plastic crates or polystyrene fruit boxes are perfect.
- Punch some holes in the bottom for drainage.
- Raise the box so any liquid will run into a smaller container placed underneath the worm farm. Dilute the liquid fertiliser and use to water your garden.
- Line your container with newspaper.
- Place a bedding of shredded newspaper mixed with potting soil, coconut fibre and peat moss in the container to a depth of about 10cm.
- Add your worms. About one thousand worms is a good number to start with.
- Worms don't like light so cover your worms with some damp newspaper or damp hessian.
- Start feeding your worms once they have been in their new home for about a week.

KEEPING YOUR WORM FARM HEALTHY

Worms don't like to get hot, so place your worm farm in a shaded, cool spot.

Worms eat food wastes like vegetable and fruit peelings (cut into small pieces), tea bags and egg shells. They also like small amounts of wet paper, hair and vacuum dust.

Worms need moisture. It is important to keep your worm farm damp (like a well rung out sponge) but not wet. If it becomes too wet it may start to smell 'sour'. Fluff up the castings with a small garden fork and add a handful of dolomite to raise the ph of the castings.

Be careful not to overfeed your worms. Add small amounts of food to your farm every few days.

Worms don't like to eat citrus fruit or onions. Do not feed your worms meat. Meat or dairy products take a long time to break down and may attract vermin, flies or ants.

HARVESTING YOUR WORM CASTINGS

Over time your worm farm will fill up with worm castings (worm poo). Harvest the worm castings by tipping them on to some sheets of newspaper. Make a pyramid out of the castings. Because the worms do not like light they will burrow to the base of your pyramid. After 30 minutes scrape the castings off the top of the pyramid and use them in your garden. Return your worms to your farm and keep feeding them.

Use your castings as a fertiliser on your garden or combine with potting mix and use to plant seedlings.

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