


Vermiculture or Vermicomposting



Group 5: Worm Bin (Can-O-Worms 2)
Cathy and Stephanie



We First Met the Worms on March 21st 2024

We were provided a compost bin of approximately 1000 small worms (red wigglers). The bin was divided into 3 tiers with a lid. The top tier had a wool mat. According to Farming Connect, the mat of sheeps wool “increases water retention and acts as a source of slow-release nitrogen.” We found worms buried throughout the wool.

We lifted the mat to discover most of the worms among the castings, plus food. There were also a lot of tiny white mites. According to Urban Worm Company, mites “feed on dead and decaying organic matter...even dying worms.” We tried to move worms from the second tier into the top.

We did not add food as it looked like there was enough. We did add newspaper to help absorb moisture.





March 28th Second meeting

We opened the lid, moved the wool, and noticed the mites were still there. We added food: half an apple, some celery, and banana peel. We also added more newspaper. We noticed that there were not that many castings in the 2nd tier yet.

April 4th Third Meeting

We moved the wool, and noticed how much the worms were enjoying the apple. There were still a lot of mites. We added strawberries, squash, and more apple. We noticed more castings at the top level but not much in tier two. Again, we added shredded newspaper.



April 11th Fourth Meeting

We pulled back the wool and noticed more worms on the apple. Some of the apple seeds had begun to sprout. Still many mites. We added banana, egg shell, green chili, and more newspaper. The bin was still very moist.



April 18th Fifth Meeting

We added cucumber and strawberry. The bin was still moist; we added more newspaper.

We noticed that the worms had grown and many were on top of the apple. There were a few more castings. Still many mites.



April 25th Last Meeting

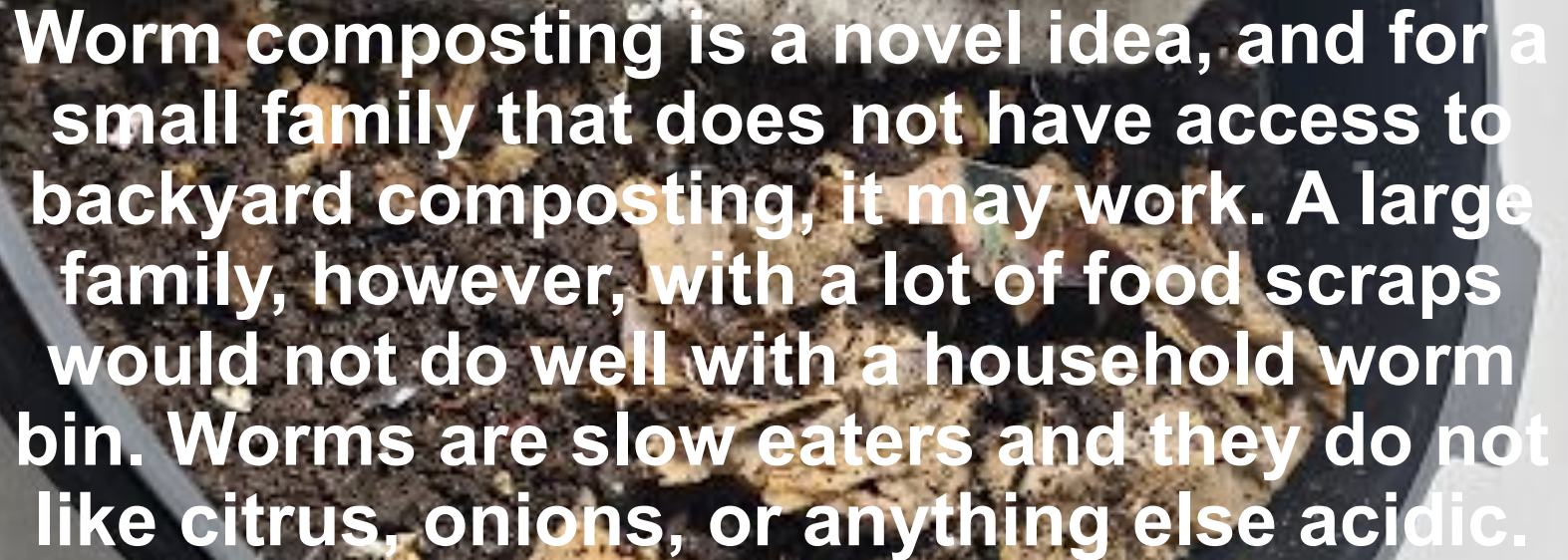
The apple was gone!

We added strawberry, banana peel, eggshells, and cucumber, as well as egg carton and newspaper. There were more castings in the top tier and a little more in the second. We harvested some castings.

The worms have grown and appear to have increased in number, although the mites are still present.



Observations and Recommendations

A black plastic bin filled with soil and food scraps, used for worm composting. The bin contains dark brown soil, some light-colored food scraps, and a small amount of white mold. The bin is placed on a light-colored surface.

Worm composting is a novel idea, and for a small family that does not have access to backyard composting, it may work. A large family, however, with a lot of food scraps would not do well with a household worm bin. Worms are slow eaters and they do not like citrus, onions, or anything else acidic.

Epilogue

**Group 5 Can-O-Worms
City Nature Challenge
Willow Springs Park
April 27**

