



Vermicomposting Glossary

Acidic: “too acidic” means there’s too much acid in the bin, which is given off by the orange peels and coffee grounds

Aeration / Aerobic: requires air/oxygen, and this air needs to be circulated throughout

Bedding: “home” for the red wigglers, which consists of moist shredded paper, peat moss, and soil

Compost: a mix of many decaying organic things; is very rich in nutrients and beneficial to the land and plants

Dioxide: air that has been exhaled by the worms when they breathe out

Decompose/Decay: rotting; breaking down

Environment: bin that the worms are living in, with the bedding and food scraps

Excreted: worm “poo-poo’d”

Germinate: plant beginning to grow from its seed

Harvest: gathering the finished compost from the bin, so it can be used in plant soil and gardens

Matter: anything that takes up space and has weight

Maturity: age when the worm can reproduce

Migrate: worms moving from one area to another

Mulch: protective cover placed over soil (to retain moisture, reduce erosion, suppress weed growth and seed germination, and provide nutrients as they decay)

Nutrients: food and nourishments that will give good strength and health

Organic: from something that was living at one time

Oxygen: air

Pathogens: germs

Peat Moss: species of mosses that increases the soil's capacity to hold water and nutrients

Population: number of worms

Red Wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*): a species of earthworm adapted to decaying organic material; they thrive in rotting vegetation and compost

Reproduction: worm eggs will be there soon, and baby worms will soon hatch from the eggs

Soil: earth; dirt

Soil Amendment: soil conditioner; material added to soil to improve plant growth and health

Stimulate: help get started; encourage; promote

Vermicompost: decomposed bedding and food scraps mixed with worms and worm castings

Vermicomposting: composting food waste with the help of worms

Worm Castings: worm poop