

Hello! How are our little worm friends? Is your bin full of soil (ie/ castings)? Then it is time to book a harvest with the Worm Lady.

The castings will provide valuable nutrients (ie/ fertilizer) for our gardens and house plants! But they prefer to live in their own bin and not with the plants.



## Gardener's Gold aka CASTINGS

When you feed your worms food scraps they eat it all up and start making castings.

Adding worm castings manure to the soil aerates and improves its overall structure while providing beneficial nutrients to plants. They are also effective for repelling many pests that feed on plants, such as aphids and spider mites.

Worm castings are an organic form of fertilizer produced from worms. Also known as vermicast, worm castings manure is essentially earthworm waste, otherwise known as worm poo. As worms eat through food scraps, their waste creates an optimal soil enricher. Worm castings resemble football-shaped particles that improve soil aeration and drainage, as well as increase water retention in the soil.

Not only can this fertilizer be used on nearly any type of plant, it can also be used directly on plants without burning them. Worm castings manure can be applied as top dressing, side dressing, or worked into the soil.



## Where do Red Wigglers (*Eisenia foetida*) come from?



*Eisenia foetida* worms are native to Europe, but have been introduced (both intentionally and unintentionally) to every other continent except Antarctica.

Found in the top 6 inches of soil, red wigglers congregate in dark areas full of organic matter. Decaying materials, such as dead leaves, aged animal manure and garden waste, all serve as food for the species. Red wigglers can be found in nature in leaf litter, under logs or in horse manure piles, but gathering your own to start a worm composting bin is very difficult.

### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<a href="#">Animalia</a>
Phylum:	<a href="#">Annelida</a>
Class:	<a href="#">Clitellata</a>
Order:	<a href="#">Opisthopora</a>
Family:	<a href="#">Lumbricidae</a>
Genus:	<a href="#">Eisenia</a>
Species:	<b><i>E. foetida</i></b>

### Binomial name

*Eisenia foetida*  
([Savigny](#), 1826) <sup>[1]</sup>

Send any questions, art or inquiries to:  
**The Worm Lady c/o R.E.A.P.S Box 444 Prince George, BC V2L 4S6**  
 Ph: 250-561-7327 or email: [thewormlady@reaps.org](mailto:thewormlady@reaps.org)