

Things You Should Know



Using Worm Castings

Fresh worm castings are full of microscopic life. This microscopic life is teaming with beneficial microbes that provide nutrients in a readily available state for plants to use right away. This is why it's called "Black Gold." Nutrients like phosphorus, calcium, potassium, nitrogen, carbon, cobalt, and magnesium can be found in worm castings. Worm castings are a gap fill for your garden when you are lacking in a specific area. Additionally, you don't have to worry about adding too much since castings won't burn your plant.

Adding castings to your seeds will help ensure your seeds germinate. It also provides food for those baby seeds to use right away. Add 20% to your seed starting mix.

---Seeding



Transplant---

When you're ready to transplant using worm castings can help the plant get established in its new home and encourage root growth.

4" pot (1 pint) = 1/4-1/2 cup of castings
8" pot (1 gal) = 2 1/2-3 cups of castings
12" pot (5 gal) = 14-16 cups of castings

If you're setting up a new pot or garden, use 20% worm castings in the mix. Castings need to stay moist so mixing them into the soil will help keep the microbes alive and well while providing your plants with nutrients.

---Soil Amendment



Fertilize---

If your plants are looking down or are ready to fertilize you can add castings to the soil. Make a hole around the plant near the roots and place the castings in. Then cover with soil. It's that easy. Since castings don't burn your plants you can do this monthly or seasonally.

If you are looking to help with pest control or increase the microbes in your castings, try making an extract or tea. For extract, steep 2-3 cups in 5 gallons of dechlorinated water with an air pump for 48 hours. For tea, steep 2-3 cups in 5 gallons of dechlorinated water with an air pump, fish hydrolysate, kelp, and humic acid for 48 hours. You should use the extract or tea immediately or the microbes will begin to die.

---Extract/Tea



If you need more information, please visit www.lasvegaswormfarm.com

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Storing Castings

Worm castings can be stored for a long time, but there are a few things we need to take into account. We know castings are full of life, and in order to ensure they don't die off, here are a few things you can do to keep them alive and ready for your plants.



Container---

Wood, plastic, bins, buckets, bags, or boxes, you can use them all. One thing to remember is you don't want it to be clear. UV will have a negative effect on your castings. Another thing to remember is that castings can be heavy! If you are storing them, smaller bins may be better, or have something that has wheels on it.

We are dealing with living organisms and they need air too. If you have too much airflow you will dry out your castings. The best thing is to have something that has a lid but is not sealed completely when it's closed.

---Air

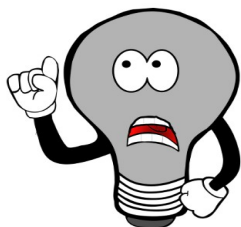
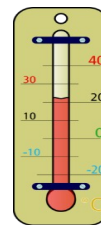


Moisture---

Microbes need moisture to survive. When you are storing your castings, it's best to have a lid on the container to help trap the moisture.

This is less of a concern compared to the other things listed, but if you are storing your castings outside or in the garage you could have issues. That issue being flash freezes. If there is a cold snap that drops below freezing within hours your microbes will die.

---Temperature



Solutions---

The best thing you can use is whatever you have the space for. If you have a Rubbermaid storage bin with a lid, then use that. If you have an old trash can with a lid, then use that. It should be solid in color to protect from UV. It should have a lid but not be completely sealed.

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