

Worm Castings Application to Specific Crops

CROP	APPLICATION	ALTERNATE APPLICATION
small planters and pots	Mix 1 part of worm castings with 3 parts of soil. Top dress each plant with a ¼ cup of worm castings every two weeks.	Add ½ to 1 inch of earthworm castings to surface of the soil. Water and repeat every 3 to 4 months . Add red worms (approximately 25 worms/planter). Worms will help aerate the soil and they will help loosen up the dirt inside the planters/pots.
<i>root crops (potatoes, carrots, onions & beets</i>	Apply 1 to 2 inches of worm castings at bottom and sides of the seed furrows and plant holes. Set seeds or plants in place and cover with soil. In 4 to 6 weeks, side dress with 1/8th inch of worm castings	When preparing soil, use 3 to 4 lb earthworm castings per 100 sq ft. Then side dress when plants are 3 to 4 inches high and side dress again in mid season if necessary for optimum growth. Note: 1 acre = 43,560 sq ft. If you apply 3 lbs/100 sq ft you would need 1 ,300 lbs of castings per acre
<i>all types of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, cucumbers & melons</i>	Mix 1 part worm castings with 4 parts soil. Line newly dug hole with mixture, place plant in hole and cover. Top dress each plant or hill with ¼ cup of worm castings after budding. Water and repeat every 2 months.	Mix 30% earthworm castings with organic peat/humus for a potting mix. Use two pounds of potting mix per set, then top dress with 3 to 4 oz. per plant after the fruit appears and once again when the fruit begins to ripen.
<i>roses, shrubs & trees</i>	Mix 4 cups of worm castings into the surface of each plant and cover with mulch.	New or Transplanted - Mix 1 part earthworm castings to 2 parts of compost or organic peat. Surround the newly dug hole with mixture, spread roots over mound of mixture in the hole. Cover & water well to eliminate air pockets. Established Roses & Shrubs - Mix 4 cups of earthworm castings into the surface of each plant & cover with mulch.
<i>Herb garden</i>	Feed each plant ½ oz. of the above mixture when seeds emerge or when transplanting, then once again in mid season.	Castings can not be used full strength because they will cause scraggly plants with reduced amounts of aromatic oils. To achieve maximum production use 5 to 10% earthworm castings mixed with organic peat and humus. Medicinal herbs response to this mixture is phenomenal.

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<p><i>established fruit and nut trees</i></p>	<p>For every 1 inch diameter of a tree, apply 2 cups of worm castings. Top dress from the trunk to drip line, cover with mulch or compost and water.</p>	<p>When transplanting bare root or container trees where you want maximum growth and fruit production it is best to use a 50/50 mix of cured compost and earthworm castings. Most all of the fruit and citrus trees will go into production in half the time and you will get two years growth in one year. The nut tree will take longer to get into production and the rate is not as dramatic as the other trees. The results for ornamental trees will be from two to five times the normal growth rate. After planting in the spring, the trees will require 5 to 7 lb. of earthworm castings applied in the fall. Use this amount on the tree with a caliper of up to 1 inch. Apply the castings by top dressing from the trunk to the edge of the drip line. With established trees top dress with 5 lb. of earthworm castings per 1-inch caliper of the tree two to three times a year. It is important to get the worm castings applied during the spring blossoming period.</p> <p>NOTE: You may shorten the height of the trunk by doubling or tripling the amount of castings applied during the first year after transplanting.</p>
<p>new lawns - great for seed and sod</p>	<p>Apply 10 lbs of worm castings per 100 sq feet. Spread seed into seed bed, rake in and water adequately. Use 1/8th inch of worm castings to sod bed surface, apply sod and water adequately. <i>Lawns (established)</i></p>	<p>Top dress lawns at the rate of 5 lbs per 100 sq feet and water adequately.</p>