WORMFARM TROUBLESHOOT

Excessive moisture and no worms

You're adding too
much water and/or
not draining the
collecting tray
often enough

The Worm farm is too wet and anaerobic decomposition is taking place

Excessive mould and unpleasant

smell

The worm
farm is outside
and exposed to
the rain

Leave the tap open

With a bucket

underneath to collect

Acidic food like citrus fruits or tomatoes are being added

Remove if possible and

re-educate students

and staff

Make sure food is added regularly.
Stand legs of the worm farm in buckets of water to stop ants climbing up

Buy a cheap pumpkin, cut it in half and leave it in the worm farm before you go away

the Worm juice

Flies and maggots have taken over

The worm farm is too dry

Stop adding

The worm farm is dry and worms have died as no new food or moisture has been added over the period

There are foods like meat and breads being thrown in

Ants in the worm farm

Yes

Most vegetable and fruit scraps
Egg Shells
Tea bags
Seeds

No

Citrus fruits
Tomatoes
Capsicums and chillies

Dairy Meat Bread

Bread

Greasy food

The Worm
farm has
stopped over
the holidays



Green Materials Suitable for home composting

All fruits and vegetable scraps, citrus included Autumn leaves

Grass

Garden Clippings Bamboo skewers and COMPOSTABLE utensils (they must be compostable,

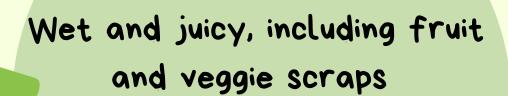
not just degradable or biodegradable)

Suitable materials can be broken into two groups, GREEN and BROWN

> Ideal ratio 1:3 Green: Brown

Dry and crunchy, including grass clippings and autumn leaves

(1:2 will still work)







Brown Materials



How composting works

Composting is the breakdown of organic matter

Firstly, chemical breakdown (enzymes). This causes the pile to heat up

Secondly, bacteria, fungi (and actinomycetes, but don't worry too much about these guys!) are active. They also contribute to the heating up of the pile.

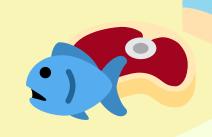
> Larger organisms, like worms, slaters and millipedes become active as the heap cools.

Unsuitable for home composting



Meat Dairy Greasy foods Breads Sweets, cakes Large sticks and wood Weeds with seed heads







COMPOST TROUBLESHOOT

Nothing is happening

You've
inadvertently
created layers of
wet/ green and
dry/ brown
materials

The compost is too Wet and anaerobic decomposition is taking place

There is a smell of sulphur

It's new, or a cold winter

Use an aerator or fork to mix the compost

Add more brown/dry materials to aerate the compost

Consider Whether a
Worm farm might
better suit your needs

Give it time! It can take months for the microorganism colonies to establish themselves.

Add more green/wet materials the compost

Remove if possible and re-educate students and staff

There are pests like rats and flies

The compost has too much brown/dry material and nitrogen is being produced

There is a smell of ammonia

The compost is too dry as no new moisture has been added over an extended period

There are foods like meat and breads being thrown in

Green Materials

Wet and juicy, including fruit and veggie scraps (citrus is okay in compost)

Nitrogen rich

Brown Materials Dry and crunchy, including

Dry and crunchy, including grass clippings and autumn leaves

Carbon rich

Ideal ratio

1:3

(1:2 will still work)

The compost has stopped over the holidays



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