

# VERMICOMPOSTING 101

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*Treating waste as a resource*



# BENEFITS OF VERMICOMPOSTING

Excellent way to  
compost kitchen  
food scraps

Odorless

Harnessing the  
work of worms to  
compost for you

Worm castings =  
gold star soil  
amendment

Fun and  
engaging for the  
whole family

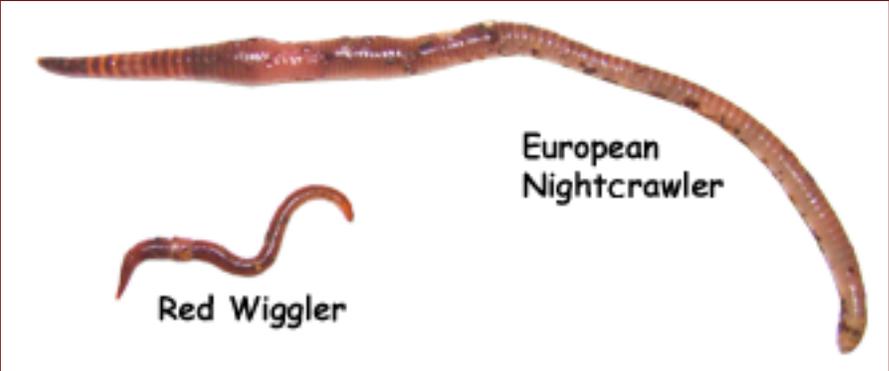
Fairly  
simple/easy care

WORMS ARE WORKING  
MEMBERS OF THE SOIL  
FOOD WEB  
COMMUNITY



# COMPOSTERS VS EARTHWORKERS

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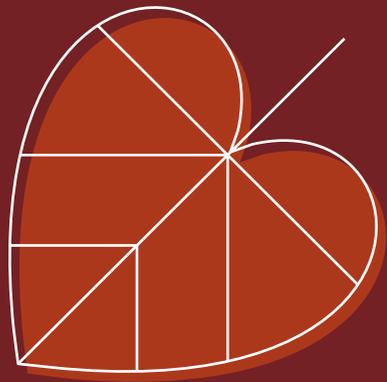
# LITTER FEEDERS



*"Composters" like the redworm live and work on the surface in the upper organic layers of soil. Soil-dwelling "earthworkers" move from one layer to another, mixing layers as they do.*



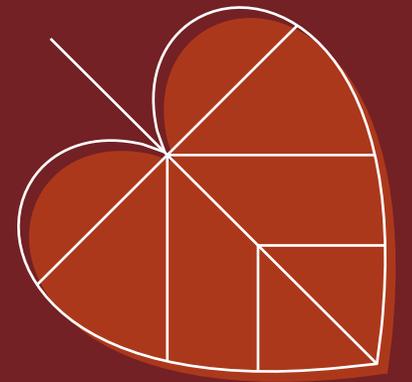
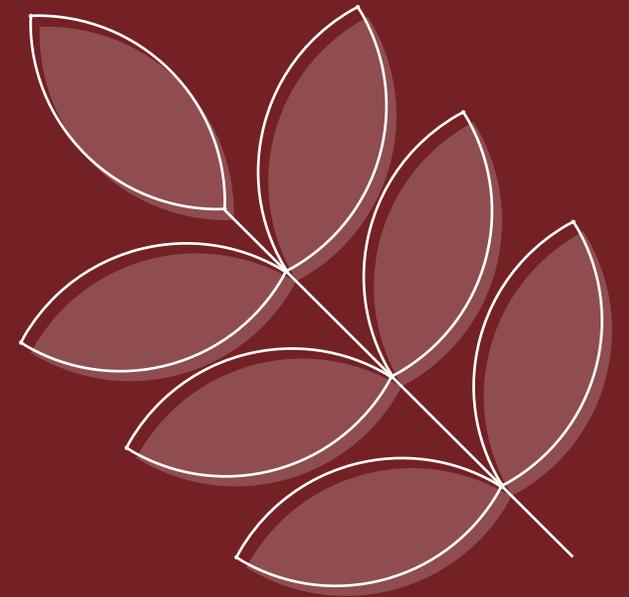
# LIFE CYCLE OF A RED WRIGGLER



# WORM BEDDINGS

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- Some form of cellulose (carbon or "browns" source)
- Gives worms a medium to "work" in
- Holds moisture
- Worms eventually will eat bedding so must not be toxic to them





## BIN TYPES

*Shallow bins create more surface area to bury garbage*

MANUFACTURED



*HOMEMADE*



## BIN TYPES



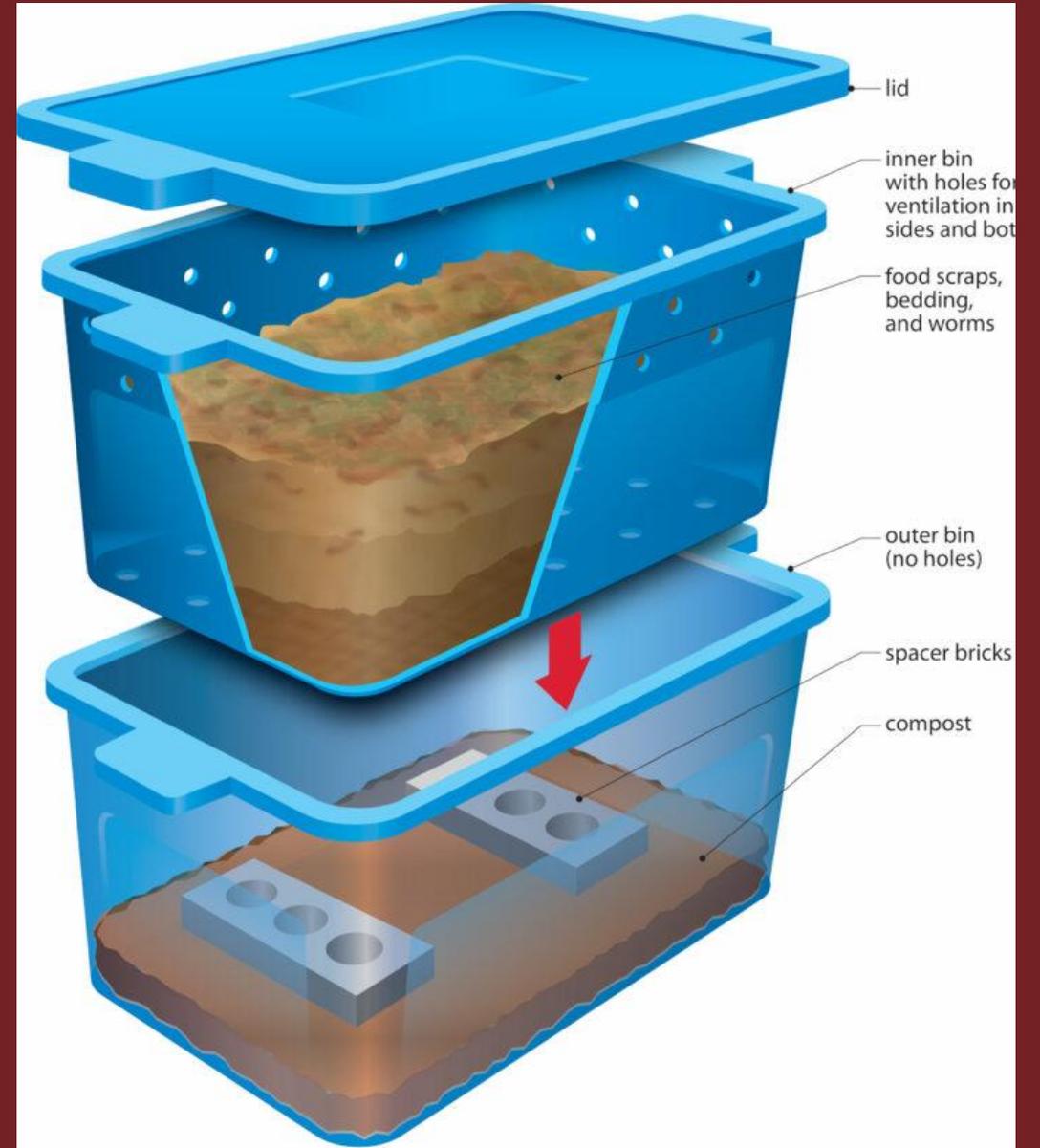
*Wooden bins tend to be more  
breathable*



# BIN TYPES



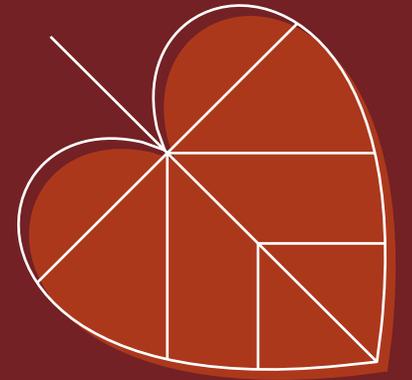
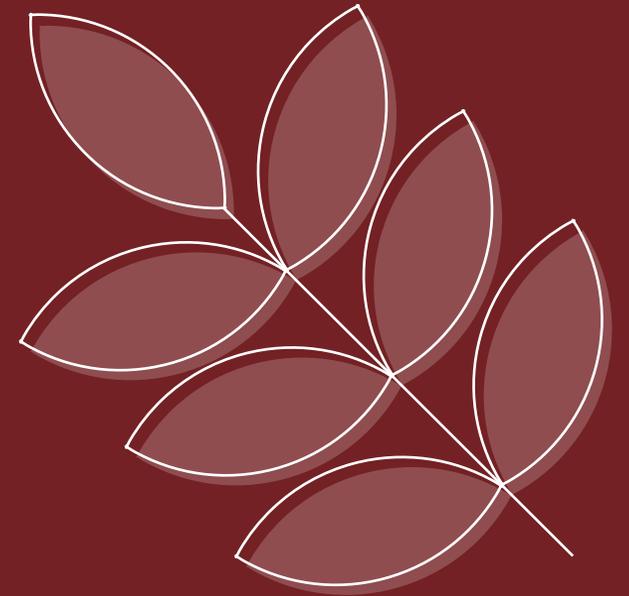
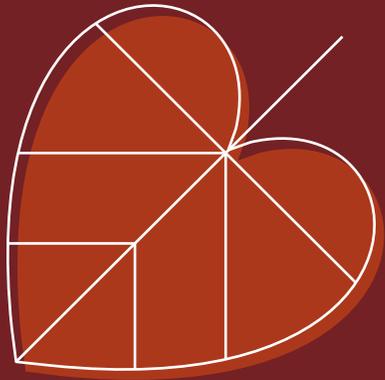
*Plastic bins allow for compost tea harvest and are easy to obtain & put together*



# TYPES OF BEDDING TO USE

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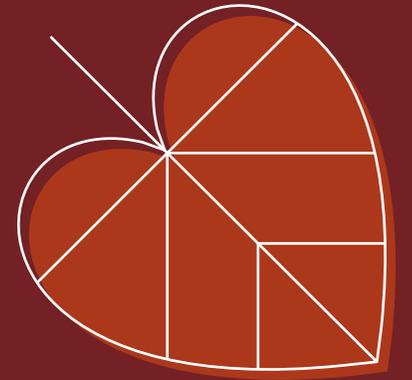
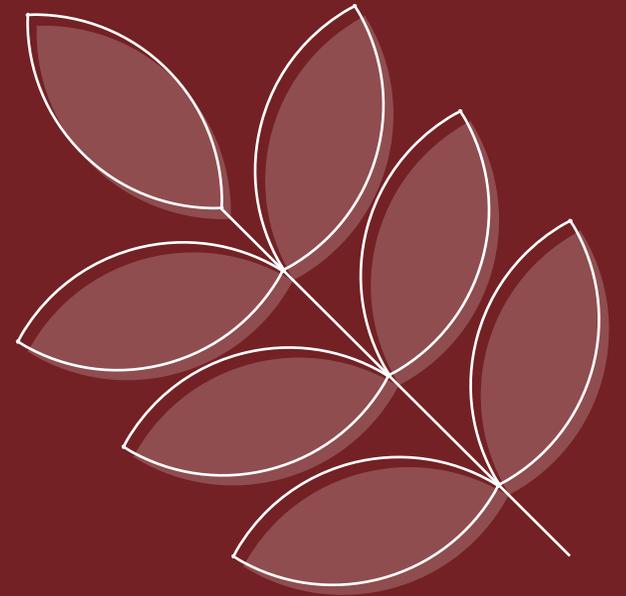
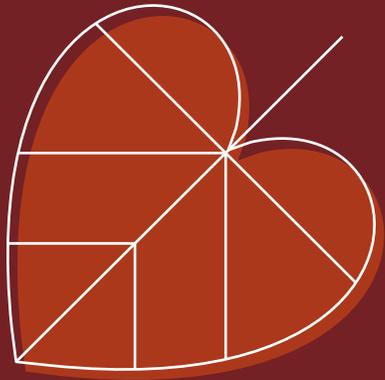
- Shredded newspaper
- Shredded office paper
- Animal manures (cow, horse, rabbit)  
*Must be cooled prior to use*
- Wood chips
- Coconut coir/peat moss  
*Peat is not sustainably harvested*



# ADDITIONS TO BEDDING

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- Soil
- Animal manure (cow, horse, rabbit)
- Calcium carbonate  
*Pulverized eggs shells*
- Rock dusts
- Zeolite



# WORM FEEDING

## YES

- Vegetarian food scraps  
*Fruit peels and cores, cooked and raw vegetables, cooked grains*
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Pizza crust, cake

## NO

- Meat, bones, fish
- Cheese, eggs
- Fats and oils
- Citrus fruits
- Garlic and onion
- Non-biodegradables  
*Rubber bands, twist ties, produce stickers*
- Pet feces  
*Cat and dog*



## HOW MANY WORMS?

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- 2:1 worm to garbage ratio
- 1 lb of worms per  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of garbage per day
- Example: 2-3 lbs of worms for a 6 cubic foot worm bin
- Consider how much garbage you/your family generate per day

# TROUBLESHOOTING

- Overloading your bin with food scraps
- Too much moisture
- Fruit flies and topical mold growth
- Odors
- Winterizing

THANK YOU



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