



Our Process

What we feed our worms down on the farm

70% Cow manure – produced by organic grain fed free range beef cattle, **no steroids** - manure is aged 6-9 months prior to feeding to worms

2.5% rabbit manure – manure is aged 3-6 months prior to feeding to worms

2.5% chicken manure – manure is aged 6-9 months prior to feeding to worms

5% (organically grown) end of season vegetable garden refuse/spoil/rotted

Primary bedding sources:

15% Leaf mold – Primarily Oak, Elm, Maple & other assorted/untreated Michigan Native trees.

2.5% Shredded cardboard pulp – Clean unused/source origin known.

2.5% mix of Peat moss (OMRI listed); Coconut coir (OMRI listed)

All *waste* materials listed above are generated from our on-site farming with the exceptions of the cardboard which is hand sorted for quality and *only source origin known; as well as the peat moss and coir. There are no other outside additives to our worm feed. We feel strongly that this control factor is not only a wonderful farm-food production model, but the main determinant factor for a consistently superior end product in our finished castings.

Vermiculture systems- what we use on the farm

My Grandmother started in this business many years ago with what is commonly called today – pit composting (but with worms). Well basically, ain't nothin' changed but the name. Current terminology for our systems dictate that it be called an “In-ground - Continuous flow-through” system. Yeah, we know... a lot of big words for making worm poop. Here's the simple skinny on how it works:

A large rectangular pit is dug and fashioned with lid, as to be covered and protected from the elements and predators. It is “seeded” with a few thousand Red wigglers. These guys are then fed the above listed materials in combination, based on time of year, feed availability, and seasonal weather conditions. Feed is added to the top layer (inside the pit) and the worms eat it from below or underneath. New feed is added as quickly as the worms will eat it. Generally speaking, in Michigan our worms are most active in spring and fall. The temperature extremes of winter and summer simply slow the worms down in terms of efficient eating and reproducing.

Harvesting

Our systems or *worm beds* as we call them are harvested 1-4 times a year. After the worms have been consistently fed and housed in a bed for at least 3-6 months its time to harvest or separate the worms from the castings. By this time the pit is usually almost completely full of worm castings that have settled to the bottom over the past months and in essence filled up the pit. We stop feeding the worms approximately two weeks before a planned harvest. Our harvested castings is then cured for 2 weeks minimally prior to use or sale.

Updated 3/2021