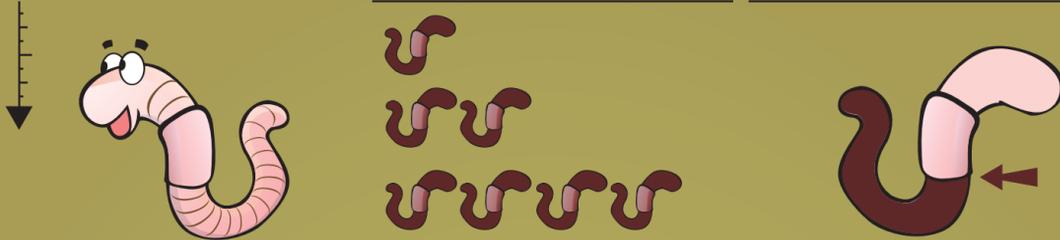


# FAQ - Red Wiggler Compost Worms

## Why Red Wigglers?

Red Wigglers are the recommended breed of worm for use in composting bins. Red Wigglers are the ideal worm for such an environment because:

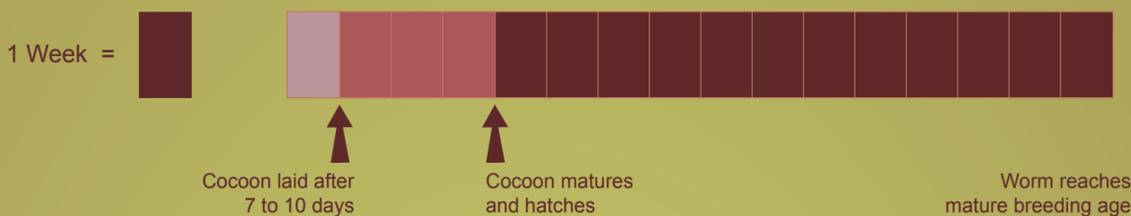
1. They live within the top few inches of soil
2. They reproduce quickly & can double every 3 mo.
3. They consume half their weight in food every day



## How Do Worms Reproduce?

Red wigglers, like other earthworms, are hermaphroditic. However, two worms are still required for reproduction. The worms reproduce to lining up side by side and join clitellums which contain reproductive organs, and exchange sperm. The worms then go their separate ways and secrete cocoons

which contain several eggs. It takes about three weeks for the cocoon to mature and will hatch into several baby worms. The worms will reach mature breeding age in 60-90 days and under perfect conditions can produce a cocoon every 7-10 days.



## Likes and Dislikes:



### TEMPERATURE

Worms do not like extreme heat or extreme cold. Ideal temperatures range from about 55°F-77°F, especially when composting.



### MOISTURE

Worms breathe through their skin. They need moisture in order to do this, so a very dry worm is likely to die by suffocation.



### FOOD

If it grows, worms can eat it. All organic things are supper for worms with the exception of meat and dairy products.



## Worm Bodies & Capabilities



### HEARTS

Worms have five hearts, but they are all located near their front. If cut in half, the worm will not survive, contrary to popular belief.



### (LACK OF) EYES

Worms also have no eyes! But oddly enough they are incredibly sensitive to light which makes them instinctually bury themselves into the ground thinking they've hit the surface.



### INJURIES

Depending on the nature and position of an injury, red wigglers are able to regenerate small segments that may be torn off.

## Origin and Spread of Red Worms

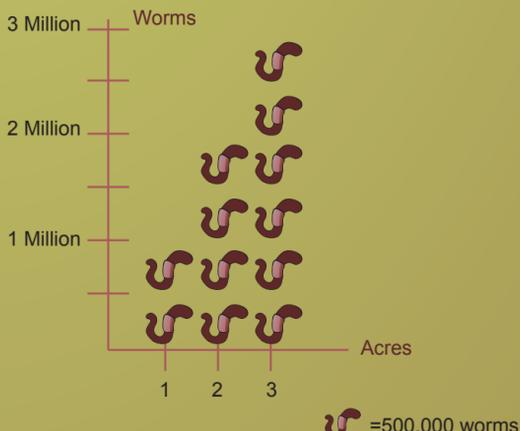
Red worms are native to Europe but have now been introduced to every continent on Earth except for Antarctica.



### MILLIONS OF WORMS!

In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.

In the United States there are about 2.3 Billion acres of land. If all this land was inhabited by earthworms there would be more than 2.3 Quadrillion worms in the United States!



## Worms at Work



Red wigglers are regular farmers! They help to aerate the soil by burrowing through it creating air tunnels for water to flow through. They drag decaying organic matter back into the earth to revitalize the soil with nutrients. They also produce an amazing fertilizer which when introduced into soil provides many essential minerals.