

## HOW DO I USE NURTURING NATURE WORM CASTINGS?

### APPLICATION RATES

Unlike other manures, hot composts, soil amendments and fertilizers, worm castings will not burn your plants. Application of greater quantities than listed below will do no harm.

#### FOR HOME & GARDEN



**For indoor or outdoor potted plants;** add a few tablespoons of castings around the top of each plant every four to six weeks. Water thoroughly.

**For re-potting;** blend a mixture of approximately 10% - 20% worm castings with the new potting soil. Use a little extra at the base of the roots. Leave some room at the top of the soil to sprinkle an additional few tablespoons of castings. Water thoroughly.

**For bedding plants;** generously sprinkle worm castings in the hole before inserting the plant. For established garden plants, lightly dig worm castings around the plants or sprinkle generously around the plants and garden and allow castings to soak in with watering.

**For trees and shrubs;** sprinkle generously around the base of the plant or rake into the soil or lawn. Allow castings to soak in with watering.

#### FOR LARGE GARDENS OR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE CROPS

For large agricultural operations, or to create a foliar spray for leaf ailments, it may be best to brew a "casting tea". The tea can be used both as a soil drench or a foliar spray. Obtain approval from your certifier if you plan to use worm tea in certified organic crop production.

Casting tea is a cold water extract of the micro-organisms contained in worm castings. The tea is obtained by soaking castings in cold water with adding aeration. The "beneficial" micro-organisms need oxygen –so it is important to add aeration so the brew does not become anaerobic & stagnant. If the tea is not properly aerated, detrimental bacteria may form that are toxic to the plant. Many growers use commercial oxygenating brewers.

Small batches of tea can be made simply by placing worm castings in a large bucket of water and immersing an aquarium pump or aerator for 24hrs. It should be applied as soon as possible after the aerator is removed. It is not recommended that fruits or vegetables be sprayed within 72 hours of harvesting.

Recipes for casting teas may vary depending on the purpose, the crop to be sprayed or the soil conditions. Some plants prefer a richer fungal count whereas others prefer a higher beneficial bacteria count. As a result growers have been experimenting with a variety of recipes and application rates. Some growers add molasses, kelp, plant extracts, fish hydrolyzate, humic acids or mycorrhizal fungi depending on the conditions.

The following is a general multi-purpose using worm castings only.

A 30 litre bag = approx 37lbs

60 lbs of castings brewed = approximately 1000 gallons of tea

Spray 5 to 10 gallons of casting tea per acre.