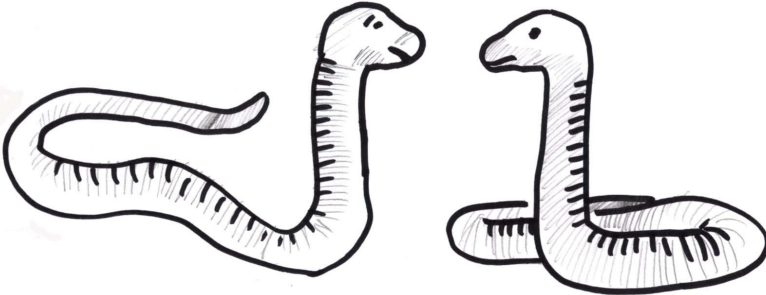


Hot Tips on Home Composting



“No: 10? Not anymore. No: 5 does chicken curry on a Friday night!”

“It’s that time of year again, when we should be enjoying long, hot, sunny days and revelling in the fruits of our labours in the garden.” Well, that is how the press release from WODC began, but it does not seem very apt as I sit at my computer on a Monday morning in late August with wind and rain lashing the windows.

Getting Your Compost Bins

So what does all this mean to gardeners, beginners or experts? First and foremost we should be taking advantage of the local authority’s latest compost bin offer! Two different sizes of compost bins are available; £10 for the smaller bin, suitable for singles and couples or £15 for a large, family size one. The bin can be delivered to your door, for a £5 delivery fee or you can collect from one of the four participating garden centres across the county. You can even attend a talk giving expert advice and tips on the most efficient and effective way to home compost. Schoolchildren are being encouraged to join in through the Schools Composting Scheme. Through composting we can get rid of organic rubbish; 60% of the average kitchen bin

can be recycled in this way, diverting rubbish from landfill sites where decomposition is a slow process, which contributes to global warming and ultimately, climate change.

What Worms Like Best

Most people know that their garden waste can go into the compost bin, but did you know that cardboard, paper, tissues, cotton, tea-bags, coffee grounds and filters can also go in? So can egg cartons, pasta, rice and bread. Once you start adding materials to your bin it is important to get a good mix of different ingredients. You must start to think like the heroes of our compost bins – the worms! They wriggle and eat their way through the delicious offerings and turn them into nutrient-rich soil improver, a veritable treat for all gardens.

Christine Halliday

Call: 0870 8443006 to arrange delivery of your compost bin. For help speak to Katie Zabel, Oxfordshire County Council’s Waste Reduction Officer. For talks/ lectures on home composting ring: 01865 815908 or 07776 455803.