

TERRARIUM RECIPE CARD

Project
Level: Easy

Materials

- Styrofoam worm ranch container
- Eco Earth or Worm Bedding
- RO Water or Water conditioner to treat tap water
- Clean spray bottle used only for water

Food

- Worm meal
- Compost foods such as: coffee grounds, egg shell, potato peels (most vegetable scraps except onions and citrus)

Recommended Temperature:

Red worms can handle temperatures between 50-85°F (10-30°C) You may place the worm ranch container in the refrigerator for storage as long as the temperatures meet this requirement. Placing the worm ranch container in the refrigerator will stop fruit flies from laying eggs in the bedding. Be sure to remember to feed your earthworms even when it is placed in the refrigerator.



REDWORM “WORM RANCH” HABITAT

Set up: This worm ranch container is actually used to keep Earthworm bait and is not really recommended to be used as a breeding container or a compost maker for long periods because it is flimsy, but it is perfect for Earthworm observations in the classroom. Pour Eco Earth or worm bedding into the Styrofoam worm ranch container. Moisten the soil so that it is moist but not muddy. Add earth worms.

Maintenance: Once you are done with the worm observation you can either use the worm bedding for planting gardens or put into an outdoor garden. Worm castings make for great soil. To clean the Worm Ranch separate the worms from the soil. Use the old soil for the garden as it is rich with nutrients. Rinse out the ranch with water (do not use soap.) Start a new bedding for the worms with new Eco Earth or worm bedding. Sometimes fruit flies and gnats will lay eggs in the earth worm bedding. (If you have an infestation you can attract the fruit flies to an open container of vinegar near the tank. The flies are attracted to the smell of the vinegar and will drown in the liquid.)

Care: Keep the worm ranch moist by spraying with RO water at least once a day. Red worms can eat their weight in food per day, a great opportunity for your students to observe the disappearance of food as it is consumed by the worms. Worms do not like light and prefer warm dark soil. As you open the lid to your worm ranch you will see worms scrambling into the soil to avoid the light. Worms will crawl out of their soil if there is too much water or too dry of a habitat. Assigning students to provide daily care for the Earth worms will ensure that the success of your worm ranch.