



Introduction

Vermiculture is basically the science of breeding and raising earthworms. It defines the thrilling potential for waste reduction, fertilizer production, as well as an assortment of possible uses for the future. Vermicomposting is the process of producing organic fertilizer or the vermicomposting from bio-degradable materials with earthworms. Composting with worms avoids the needless disposal of vegetative food wastes and enjoys the benefits of high-quality compost. The earthworm is one of nature's mile stone "soil scientists." Earthworms are liberated and cost-effective farm relief. The worms are accountable for a variety of elements including turning common soil into superior quality. They break down organic matter and when they eat, they leave behind castings that are an exceptionally valuable type of fertilizer.

Advantages of Vermiculture and Vermicomposting

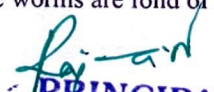
Vermiculture and vermicomposting is one of the most valuable ecological endeavours we have engaged in as it caters not only environmental protection but also helped we acquire knowledge on its proper methodology. Vermiculture is environment friendly since earthworms feed on anything that is biodegradable, vermicomposting then partially aids in the garbage disposal problems. No imported inputs required, worms are easily available and the materials for feeding are abundant in and around campus plants leaves wastes, grasses, and used papers. It is also highly profitable, both the worms and castings are used to garden, medicinal, and campus premises plants itself.

Vermicomposting does not have any adverse effect on soil, plant and environment. It improves soil aeration and texture thereby reducing soil compaction. It improves water retention capacity of soil because of its high organic matter content. It also promotes better root growth and nutrient absorption and improves nutrient status of soil, both macro-nutrients and micro-nutrients.

Precautions for Vermiculture and Vermicomposting

For vermiculture several precautions in doing such process: -

- To ensure that the culture would turn out successful and fruitful. From our hands-on experiences, vermicomposting pit should be protected from direct sun light so that the worm would survive. Direct heat possibly causes the worms to die.
- Spray water on the pit as when required to maintain moisture level because worms are fond of it.
- We should also protect the worms from ant, rat, bird and excessive rain.


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Figure 1:- Creating Vermicomposting Pit



Figure 2:- Vermiculture Pit

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