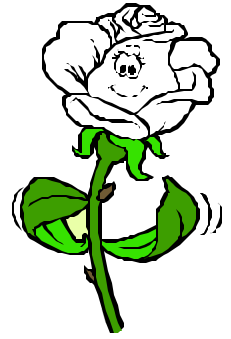
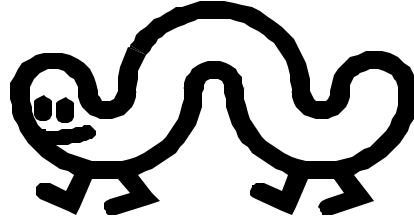


The Wonder of Earthworms



Hillermann's
Kids' Club

Earthworms are more than fish bait and they could use a little more respect. These hard-working garden buddies are a gardeners best friend!

At this very moment, thousands of these little guys are busy making gardens healthy by digesting organic and mineral matter and making tunnels in the soil so air and water can move easier.

They eat the soil's organic materials and leave behind castings. (Castings is a polite, grown-up name for worm poop!) Castings are quite rich in nutrients and help to make the soil better for growing flowers or vegetables.

Look at your soil; if it is pure sand, heavy clay or soil starved for organic matter, it won't have many (if any) earthworms.

However, you can build your soil up by adding compost or other organic mulch and earthworms will move right in, making the soil even better. They will break down leaves, grass clippings, animal manure, and kitchen scraps into nutrients your garden can use.

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Turn this page over for some really cool facts about earthworms!

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Fun Facts About Earthworms

A single Earthworm will produce 1/2 a pound of soil a year!

- **There is an estimated 50 thousand Earthworms in any given acre of ground. These same 50 thousand Earthworms produce approximately 18 tons of fertilizer (castings) per acre, per year!**
- **Earthworms produce their own weight in excrement (castings) everyday!**
- **Earthworms have 5 hearts!**
- **Earthworms are completely deaf but are sensitive to vibrations!**
- **Earthworms have no eyes, but can tell the difference between night and day!**
- **Earthworms breathe through their skin!**
- **There are over 3,000 species (kinds) of Earthworms!**
- **The largest kinds of Earthworms come from South Africa.**
- **Their average length is 4 1/2 feet!**
- **Earthworms are actually a truer indicator of Spring than any other animal They don't appear until the ground thaws!**
- **Earthworms are nature's best soil aerators. The tunnels that they dig allow deep and even water penetration and air circulation!**

