

Vermicompost Workshop

Learning Objectives

Students will understand the principles and techniques of vermicomposting and its importance in promoting sustainability and diverting food waste. They will also learn about the benefits of using vermicompost as a natural soil amendment for house plants and gardens.

Introduction

1. Discuss what students know about composting or any previous exposure to any composting methods.
 - a. Discuss the merits of the methods of composting they might already be familiar with
2. Introduce the concept of vermicomposting and explain how it is an effective way to recycle food scraps and other organic waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment
3. Discuss the benefits of vermicomposting

Activity 1: Vermicompost Demonstration

1. Demonstrate how to set up a vermicompost bin, including the different components such as bedding material, food scraps, and red worms/red wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*)
2. Discuss how to maintain a vermicompost bin, along with the importance of proper maintenance to ensure optimal worm activity and compost production

Activity 2: Planting with Vermicompost Soil Amendment

1. Students will plant herbs using potting soil and cured castings from vermicompost
 - a. Will be able to take plants home if they so choose

Conclusion

1. Review the key concepts of vermicomposting and its importance in promoting sustainability and diverting food waste from landfills

2. Review what students have learned/take home message
 - a. Students can ask any additional questions about compost, vermicompost, sustainability, etc.
3. Provide handouts with information on vermicompost