

Inquiring Minds Want to

The GreenThumb kids' newsletter for the small, tall, and in between!

Fall 2003

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When Worms Attack...

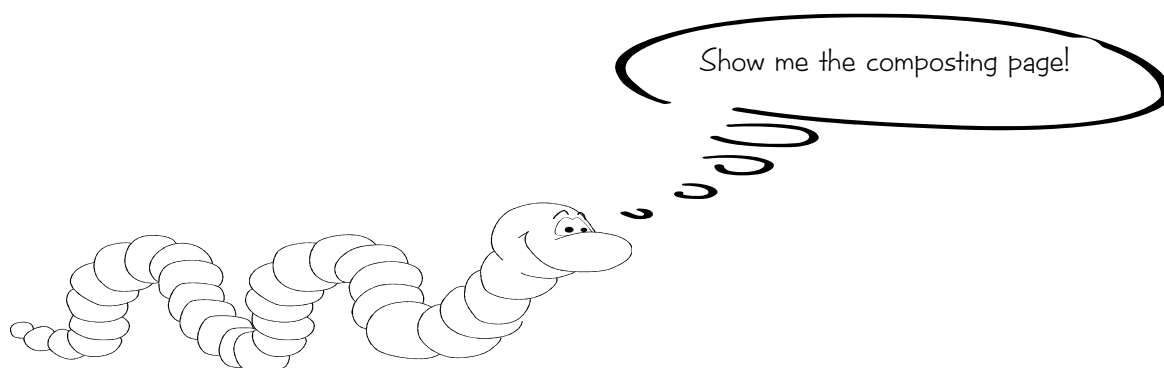
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AGH! The Worms have attacked the editing department of Inquiring Minds Want to Grow. Can you help us count the worms in this issue of *IMWTG* so we can get rid of them? Worms are very helpful but not when they are all over your copy of *IMWTG*. You can see if you counted right, by checking at the back of the newsletter.

This Issue is being dedicated to all those worms who make compost happen. What was that? You don't know what compost is? Well after this issue you're going to know so much about compost that you can be dubbed the compost KING or QUEEN!

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We will also give you some events that are happening around the city involving community gardening and other greening projects. Plus we will give you the date for this year's Harvest Fair in Brooklyn!



Doing a cool activity in your garden? Want your project to be highlighted in *Inquiring Minds Want to Grow*? Send us your story and pictures to Daniel@GreenThumbnyc.org, we're always happy to show how youth play a positive role in community gardens.

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In this issue of *IMWTG*...

Compost Happens

Youth Events

Show me the money!



Show me the money!



Wanna become an All Star?

What are we talking about? You can actually become famous for helping your community. *Disney Adventures Magazine* and *Inquiring Minds Want to Grow* want to know what you're doing in your garden.

Write to *Disney Adventures Magazine* and tell them about your project. You will receive a free cool t-shirt. Some groups will receive \$1,000 for their project! You might even be flown to Los Angeles, California to work on a project with the stars of *That's So Raven*, a show on the Disney Channel. You must be between the ages of 6-14.

For more information about becoming a *Disney Adventures All Star* pick up a copy of *Disney Adventures* or visit www.disneychannel.com.

Youth Events

GreenThumb Harvest Fair 2003
at Hattie Carthan Community Garden in
Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn
September 13, 2003 from 1pm-5pm
Take G train to Bedford-Nostrand Avenue

Check out the activities happening at your local recreation centers

Summer Sport Clinics

Sunset Park Recreation Center, Brooklyn
St. Albans Park, Queens

July-August
August

Back to School Event

Von King Recreation Center, Brooklyn
St. Mary's Recreation Center, Bronx

August 16th
September 13th

For more information about these events please call (212) 360-3312.

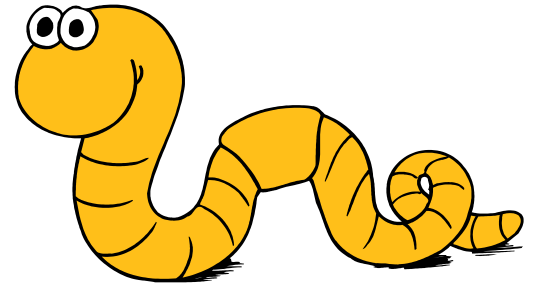


Compost Happens

So you came here in search of all knowledge of compost. We have it! What is compost? I've always been told that compost is the break down of organic material! I know- I didn't get it the first time they told me either.

Organic Material is anything that was once living. All fruits, vegetables, and meats are organic.

We mention breakdown- what do we mean? All fruits, vegetables, and meats can break down into soil again. How does this happen? Well of course, the mighty worm is one important factor.

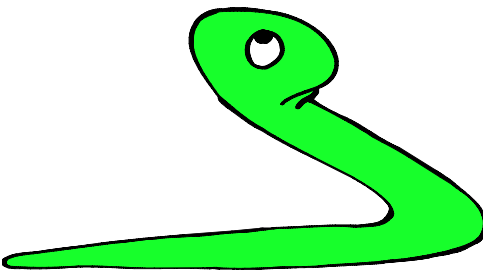


Worms eat the food waste- and when they use the bathroom soil is made.

Yep- worms make soil. Bacteria also breaks down the food into soil.

How do you make compost happen?

Compost is a natural process that occurs by itself- whether you want it to happen or not. Humans have made it possible for compost to happen faster than it usually happens by creating something called a Hot Box. A Hot Box does exactly what its named after- it gets hot! The Hot Box can get up to 150 degrees in a cold winter day.



The Hot Box keeps worms nice and warm and keeps the bacteria warm and moist, so they grow & eat up the waste! Worms also help the compost bin stay aerobic (has air) because while the worms are moving around in the soil they loosen it up.

Earthworms are ok to use with in hot boxes but they don't like the heat too much. If you want to have a hotbox you should use the red hook worms.

Another form of composting is just making a big pile. It'll take a little while longer to decompose and make soil but it is still a great way to compost. You can make a small pile and it will decompose by itself- bacteria will come and eat up all the goodies you have left for them!

Compost is great because it's cheap to make. It helps reduce the waste that we send to the landfill everyday. It's great soil- better fertilizer then you can find in Home Depot. Most store bought fertilizers contain chemicals that companies add. Most people think composting stinks- but it doesn't- if you do it right! AND it's a great project that you can take on during the summer. In 1998, I.S. 318 in Brooklyn took out approximately 11% of food waste that would go to the landfill by composting the school food and using the soil for their school garden.