

# WORM CASTING GUIDELINES

LAST UPDATED FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023

As a compost member, we think it's important that you get a portion of the worm castings your food created back. You put in the work of separating out your food scraps and you (and your plants) should be duly rewarded with some incredible worm poop. Below I have outlined our current worm casting give-back policy.

## WHEN?

Worm castings will be given back biannually. In 2023, the giveback months are April & August. Worm castings will be given back during the first week of the month or the closest date possible (with our outdoor beds, harvest will be weather dependent). The amount of worm castings given will depend on the amount of food & paper waste contributed in the prior months. The April worm castings will depend on the organic waste given from July-February and the August giveback will be based on the organic waste given March-June.

## WHO QUALIFIES?

Members who compost at least 100 lbs over the collection period (April-8 months, August-4 months) , are active members (not paused or cancelled), and have paid all membership dues are eligible.

Worm castings will be held for up to a month after the giveback, in case you are out of town. If you do not wish to receive your worm castings, you can opt out here: <https://www.back2thedirt.com/benefits.html>. As a member, you also receive a 10% discount on any purchase of worm castings and soil products with the code **B2TDmember**. If you purchase anything in person, just remind me, and I will also take 10% off.

## HOW MUCH DO I GET?

Qualifying members will receive ~15% of the worm castings their food produces.

The calculation to convert waste in pounds to worm castings in gallons can be a bit complicated, so I've provided some helpful benchmarks below. The weights do not include the weight of the bucket & lid.

Waste donated in a week (lbs)	Waste donated in a month (lbs)	Waste donated July-February (lbs)	Worm Castings received in April (gal)
5	20	160	1.5
10	40	320	3
15	60	480	4.5
Waste donated in a week (lbs)	Waste donated in a month (lbs)	Waste donated March-June (lbs)	Worm Castings received in August (gal)
5	20	60	0
10	40	120	1
15	60	180	1.5

\*The exact conversions may change slightly as we improve our formula, but the above chart helps provide a rough idea of how much you will receive back, amounts will be rounded down the nearest 0.5 gallon.

## MORE ABOUT OUR WORM CASTINGS...

Back2TheDirt's premium worm castings are a perfect soil amendment and natural fertilizer for farmers, gardeners, and indoor plant enthusiasts. Help support both your plants, soil, and community! Our worms are fed local food and paper waste collected from our Cincinnati compost program. Castings are sieved with 1/12" mesh. They have a neutral pH and no odor. We price our castings by gallon, since moisture can greatly affect weight, you know exactly what you are getting. Apply at a rate of 20% castings by volume for potting soil mixes, 1-2 tbsp a month for indoor plants, 1 cup per square foot for outdoor plants, 5-10 gallons per 100 square feet of garden space, or 2 gallons per 100 square feet of lawn.

Worm castings contain: Beneficial soil microbes • Plant nutrients and minerals • Natural plant-growth hormones

Castings have been shown to: Increase root growth and plant biomass • Speed up germination of seeds & increase seedling growth • Reduce transplant shock • Reduce pests • Suppress plant diseases • Increase soil porosity and aeration • Decrease water loss and nutrient leaching • Increase cation exchange capacity • Buffer soil pH

### Contact Info

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*\*These policies are subject to change. I hope to continually improve the process. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.*



