DID YOU KNOW – DIY BUCKET WORM FARM

You can make your very own worm farm using a plastic bucket with a lid and a drill. You do not even have to source your own worms - if you know you have worms in your garden they will naturally be attracted to your worm farm. By following these instructions, you can make a simple worm farm in your garden:

Step 1 - Drill a number of 2cm to 4cm diameter holes on the base and bottom half of the bucket (a used paint bucket with lid would be ok, provided it has been thoroughly cleaned and no paint residue is left).

Step 2 - Find a partly shaded area to place your worm farm. The best spot is within your vegetable garden where you have existing earthworms.

Step 3 - Dig a hole deep enough to fit the bucket in so the top of the bucket and the lid is at ground level.

Step 4 - Place bucket into the hole and fill around the bucket to secure.

Step 5 - Start filling your bucket with food scraps including egg shells, garden scraps, torn up paper or cardboard and mix some of the remaining dug soil in with the scraps. Ensure the mixture is moist.

Step 6 - Place the lid on the bucket and let nature do its work.

You can top up your worm farm every couple of days with scraps around your home. You can feed your worms fruit (except citrus), vegetables, coffee grounds and filter, tea bags, crushed egg shells, leaf litter, cardboard and shredded paper.

Once the bucket is full and the scraps have broken down you can mix the high quality fertilizer through your garden and start your worm farm all over again.

Tip: your worm farm should imitate the environment that worms naturally live in - cool, moist and dark. If you find the bucket is getting too hot, you can cover with some hessian or mulch.

Claire Quintal
TEAM LEADER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT

5 October 2017