

Vermicast - Organic Fertiliser Extraordinaire -

What Is Vermicast?

In the crudest sense vermicast is simply organic material that has passed through the gut of a worm. However during this otherwise unglamorous process the castings gain their not inconsiderable potency. The gut of a worm is teeming with bacteria and enzymes with which it digests its food. Huge numbers of these stay with the castings. It is these creatures that release the nutrients locked in the soil and make them available for plants to take up.

So the vermicast is full of soluble plant-friendly nutrients, and the capacity to continue it's good work in the soil with the bacteria and enzymes. Add to this that the vermicast will usually contain both live baby worms and capsules ("worm eggs") to further populate the soil, you begin to see just how powerful this organic fertiliser really is.



What To Use Vermicast For:

Fertiliser

Use as a side-dressing around the base of your plants. Alternatively you can broadcast it by hand or even use a seed-spreader. Rake into soil and then water in.

Seed-Raising Mix

Blend the vermicast 50/50 with moistened peat moss.

Potting Mix

Blend vermicast with compost or well rotted sawdust at a ratio of about 1:5. This should provide sufficient nutrients to your plants for up to 6 months.

Soil Conditioner

Spread a thin layer of vermicast over any poor soil you may have and work into the top 50mm (2"). This can be done at any time of the year.

Tree Planting

When planting new trees, mix 1 to 2 litres into the base of the hole before planting.

The Fine Print:

Because the vermicomposting process is a 'cold' one, any seeds that are inadvertently fed to the worms are not killed. Therefore you can expect some of these seeds to germinate. A small price to pay in order to have the live worms and capsules. One of the ways of overcoming the weed seed issue is to make a liquid fertiliser out of the vermicast.