

HELLO, wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Halloween. By now your new worm friends will have settled right into your classroom. Make sure that they have plenty of air, moisture and food will ensure that they are comfortable. The types of worms that you have in your bin are red wigglers or *Eisenia fetida*. While this is the only type of worm in your worm bin they are not the only type of worm. Let us take a moment to learn about some other worms.

LUMBRICUS TERRESTRIS: commonly known as common earthworm, nightcrawler or dew worm. It is a European native that has been introduced all around the world by humans. In some parts of the world it is concerned an invasive species because of its ability to outcompete native species. In North Central USA it is concerned a problem because of its ability to hinder the growth native herbs and regrowth of native trees.



EISENIA FETIDA: commonly known as red worm, trout worm, or red wiggler. Is a sub species of the common earthworm that thrives on organic material, this is why it is used in vermicomposting. The name fetida, meaning foul smelling, comes from the worms ability to produce a pungent liquid when it is handled roughly.

DRILOLEIRUS AMERICANUS: also known as the giant Palouse earthworm or the Washington Giant Earthworm. It can be found in parts of Washington and Idaho. Since the 1980s this worm was thought to be extinct until it was found in 2010 at the University of Idaho. The worm has an albino appearance, and this type of worm is thought to be able to grow up to 1 meter long.



MEGASCOLIDES AUSTRALIS: is known as the giant Gippsland earthworm. It can be found in Australia along with 1000 other native worms. It can grow up to 3 meters, but on average they only reach 1 meter. It takes 12 months for this worm to emerge from its cocoon and another 5 years to become mature.

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