

Hello! And happy March. Did you know where the worms in your bin come from? Red Wigglers are not native to North America. They are originally from Europe but have been introduced all over the world (except for Antarctica) by humans in a number of ways. This month we will look at these different methods and next month we will see what North American native worms there were.

The Worm Adventure

The Worm Adventure

Earthworms arrived in North America in the 17th and 18th centuries with European settlers. Sometimes the worms were introduced on purpose and sometimes by accident.



The first way that earthworms were introduced was through potted plants. Settlers would bring over their favorite plants from their gardens back in Europe and living in the soil were the worms. When the plants were planted or if the soil was removed from the pots the worms would be introduced to the soil.

Worms were also introduced in large numbers through the ships. Soil was used as a ballast, a heavy material used to improve stability, at this time and once the ships arrived in North America and no longer needed the soil they would dump it into piles on the land. Like the potted plants living inside these piles of dirt was your wormy friends.



In both of these cases the worms that were accidentally brought to North America began to spread out from their original introduction point. However worms were also introduced on purpose.



Some farmers noticed that the plants by the ports where the worms had been introduced were growing better than plants away from the ports, where the worms had not migrated to. The farmers then brought the worms to their own farms to help their own plants and by extension their farms.

Regardless of the method earthworms have moved into North America and made a home for themselves here.



Send any questions, art or inquiries to:
The Worm Lady c/o R.E.A.P.S Box 444 Prince George, BC V2L 4S6
 Ph: 250-561-7327 or email: thewormlady@reaps.org