



*Happy Valentine's Day...* Love is in the air, and in the soil! Your worms don't need to be spoiled with chocolates and jewellery, but they would love to have some spoiled flowers and cards! If your worms get a broken heart (or ten!) or they are otherwise not feeling well, remember that the Worm Lady is only a phone call away.

Share some love this Valentine's Day — with your worms of course! If you have a vermicomposter or a worm farm, it is important to remember the simple steps that keep worms happy.

- ♦ **AIR**—Like humans, worms need oxygen to breathe. Be sure to fluff the worms' soil about once a week.
- ♦ **FOOD**—Feeding your worms a variety of fruits and vegetables is important; this provides them with a well-balanced diet that offers many vitamins and minerals.
- ♦ **MOISTURE**—The worms' bin should be as damp as a wrung out washcloth. If it's too wet, they will drown; however, if it is too dry, the worms will also dry out.

## Australia's Wacky Worms

They have Christmas in the summer, bell peppers are called *capsicums*, and the toilets flush the other way in the Australia. In line with these other oddities is the continent's worm species. It has over 1000 species of earthworms, including the longest in the world: the Giant Gippsland Earthworm (pictured above right). This worm can measure up to 4 metres long!

The north-eastern state of Queensland is home to an earthworm species that is bright blue (pictured below right). The Giant Blue Earthworm can grow to be 1 metre in length. Although it buries deep beneath the wet rainforest's floor, it has no trouble seeing as its spit glows in the dark!

## Why do worms come out of the soil when it rains?

There are a few explanations for this occurrence:

- 1) The soil is too saturated with water that they cannot breathe.
- 2) The moisture on the surface of the ground allows the worms faster and easier movement—which might come in handy when being chased by a bird!



Send any questions, art or inquiries to:  
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