

# EARTHWORMS & CASTINGS

## **EARTHWORMS**

Earthworms as they cultivate and feed, swallow great quantities of soil, digest it, extract its food value and expel the residue as worm castings – these worm castings are 5 times richer in the nutrients necessary for maximum plant growth and production, than the top 6 inches of top soil.

Just as important, earthworms are one of the most effective agents for loosening and aerating the soil. Their burrows make large passageways, lined with the earthworm castings, for roots to grow. Also, as the earthworms burrow, they create channels which increase the capacity for the soil to hold water. In soil where earthworms have been introduced, there is less run-off of water. Worm castings, increased aeration of the soil, and increased capacity to hold water by the soil will result in increased plant production and growth.

Increased earthworm population and richer, more productive soil are cause and effect. One cannot exist without the other. When the soil around trees, bushes, plants or in the garden or other growing areas is impregnated with earthworms or earthworm spawn, it should be also fertilized regularly with organic matter, so the earthworms may thrive, multiply and perform their own important special functions in soil building and promotion of plant growth.

## **CASTINGS**

Earthworms, as they burrow and feed, swallow great quantities of soil, digest it, extract its food value and expel the residue as WORM CASTINGS, which are INFINITELY RICHER IN NITROGEN, PHOSPHATES, CALCIUM, AND MAGNESIUM THAN THE FINEST OF TOP SOIL; all elements water-soluble and immediately available as plant food.

Earthworm castings also eliminate the need for artificial or chemical foods in your plants. Once your plant has been replanted in worm castings (a mixture of 5 parts existing soil to 1 part worm castings) *your plants will draw essential nutrients from the castings*. This amazing plant food will markedly improve the health of your plants in from 30 to 60 days, making your plants more luxurious looking than you ever imagined they could be.

Worm castings are completely odorless, and they are beneficial to both indoor and outdoor plants, perfect for small vegetable gardens as well as your houseplants. Fruits and vegetables grown in earthworm casting enriched soil are bound to be the most nutritious and delicious you've ever tasted.

### SOIL TEST RESULTS: FOR FIELD SAMPLE NO. WORM CASTINGS

<u>SOIL PH</u>	<u>BUFFER PH</u>	<u>CATION EXCH CAP</u>	<u>PERCENT SATURATION</u>
5.9	6.8	23.6 MEQ/1006	K=2.8 MG=25.0 CA=60.1

NUTRIENT LEVELS:	PPM	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	%
PHOSPHORUS (P)	69.	XX				2.6
POTASSIUM (K)	161.	XX				6.1
CALCIUM (CA)	1805.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				68.2
MAGNESIUM (MG)	458.	XX				17.4
AMMONIUM (NH4)	3.	XXXX				-0-
NITRATE (NO3)	150.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				5.7
						100.0

University of Massachusetts  
Soil and Tissue Lab  
240 Beaver Street  
Waltham, MA 02254

Durfee Conservatory  
French Hall, UMASS  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Hampshire

REPRINTED COURTESY OF ORGANIC CONTROL, INC.

### **Other Orcon Products Available:**

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Aphytis melinus             | Flea Destroyer      |
| Beneficial Nematodes        | Fire Ant Control    |
| Grub Control                | Fungus Gnat Control |
| Trichogramma                | Fly Parasites       |
| Cryptolaemus                | Green Lacewings     |
| Decollate Snails            | Lady Bugs           |
| Delphastus                  | Praying Mantids     |
| Earth Worms                 | Predatory Mites     |
| Mason Bees                  | Ladybug House       |
| Mason Bee Nest              | Encarsia formosa    |
| Ladybug/Lacewing Power Pack |                     |



Organiccontrol.com  
info@organiccontrol.com  
Facebook.com/organiccontrol