



plants grow kids

ANIMALS FACT SHEET

Earthworms

Where do they live:

Earthworms live in soil, leaf litter, under stones and logs; mostly in moist heavy vegetated areas.

What do they eat:

Vegetable and garden scraps mostly. Worms eat organic material with soil, digesting the organic material and expelling the soil with an increase in essential nutrients and minerals called castings, which make up a major part of the composting cycle.

How do they move around:

Earthworms move by extending their body forward then small bristles grip the front part of the body in place and the end of the body retracts towards the front of the body. When you find an earthworm in your garden, loosen the soil around it and watch it burrow back into the ground.

Interesting Facts:

- Earthworms cannot see, they have light sensitive parts so they know when they are near the surface.
- Worms don't have lungs, they breathe through their skin.

Earthworms have many benefits to your garden:

- Earthworms decompose organic material and leave behind castings which make great compost for the soil, plants love it.
- The earthworms burrowing action in the soil help to aerate the soil which assists plants roots to reach air and water and makes it easier for the plant roots to grow.
- Earthworms are food for many birds and animals