

Exploring Vermicomposting Bedding

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Keep in mind that all organic material has a ratio of carbon and nitrogen; lets explore our bedding options.

Keep in mind that what you feed them will affect the results of your vermicomposting humus; food scraps, ground up eggshells, chicken protein, coffee grounds etc.

Guiding Questions:

1. What organic material(s) can we use for vermicomposting bedding?
2. What organic material(s) makes for the best vermicomposting bedding?
3. What organic material(s) result in the best vermicomposting humus?

Herbivore Beddings:

Herbivore manures have a spectrum of potency. For the most part the more grass an animal eats the lower their nitrogen content will be. Animals who eat more woody plants and or vegetables tend to have more concentrated nutrients in their corpoalites.

1. Cow C:N 25-1
2. Horse C:N 20-1
3. Rabbit C:N 12-1
4. Sheep C:N 15-1
5. Goat
6. Lama

Omnivore Beddings:

Omnivore manure also has a spectrum of potency and nutrients. Animals that only eat bugs and worms are still considered omnivores. Omnivore manure is hotter than Herbivore manure and thus should never be used directly without first being composted.

1. Swine C:N 12-1
2. Humans C:N 10-1
3. Poultry C:N 7-1

Non Manure Beddings:

Not all vermicomposting beddings are manure. Some composters use primarily non manure bedding.

1. Saw dust
2. Wood chips/mulch
3. Paper
4. Coconut husk
5. Seaweed C:N 19-1
6. Burlap

Evaluating Quality of Vermicompost:

1. One measure would be to look under the microscope of finished vermicomposting materials known as humus to see what concentration of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, arthropods and protozoa are present.
2. Color and smell.
3. Plant some seeds observe and record results.