



No-Dig Garden with Worm Tower

How to DIY convert a patch of lawn into a no-dig vegetable garden with worm tower...

No-dig garden beds are layered using several materials inside a frame. As the layers break down, they feed the plants. The addition of a worm tower adds nutrients and aerates the garden bed.

Plan

- Plan your garden bed area on a fairly flat surface.
- Ensure it will get at least 6 hours sunshine.
- Note location of tap/hose to use when building garden bed.
- Collect materials.
- Note health and safety precautions.

Materials

- Frame - material to hold the garden layers in such as sleepers, timber, rocks, straw bales, etc. Ensure your framing material is not treated with toxic chemicals.
- Bales of straw, Lucerne, pea straw, etc.
- Autumn leaves
- Dry grass clippings
- Manure-horse, cow, chicken, sheep, etc.
- Newspaper and cardboard
- Compost-self-made, bought, humus, mushroom, etc.
- Worm castings
- Worms will naturally come in time or you can purchase or relocate from compost/garden
- Garden soil or potting mix
- Water: Hose, buckets.
- Worm tower: PVC pipe (approx. 40cm long) drill, plastic plant pot
- Plants: Seasonal seeds and seedlings.



Steps

1. Plan the garden area and gather materials.
2. Make Worm tower, drill 5mm holes in lower $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pipe.



3. Use cardboard or at least 10 over-lapping sheets of newspaper on the ground under frame of garden bed.
4. Place worm tower in the centre of garden bed.
5. Top worm tower with plant pot or cover to prevent rodents entering.
6. Start layering with alternating materials.
7. Water lightly between each layer.





8. Continue layering and watering between layers until height of at least 30cm.
9. Complete the garden bed with a layer of compost and manure mixed with potting mix.



10. Allow to settle for about a month.
11. Plant seedlings and water in.
12. Mulch with Lucerne or pea straw.
13. Cover if necessary. (These brassicas needed protection from cabbage moth)
14. Place cut up kitchen scraps in worm tower, leaves, torn newspaper, etc to feed worms.
15. Top up your garden with compost as it breaks down and reduces in height.



More info

No-dig gardens can be placed on concrete, grassed areas or rooftops with the correct preparation.

For more details and detailed information, please see this Sustainable Gardening Australia Factsheet:

<http://www.sgaonline.org.au/pdfs/factsheets/no%20dig.pdf>



Worms

Feed your worms:

- Fruit (not citrus) chopped up
- Vegetables (not onion, chilli and garlic) chopped up
- Crushed eggshells
- Grass clippings (small amounts)
- Autumn leaves (small amounts)
- Coffee grounds (in moderation), tea and tea bags
- Aged manure
- Shredded egg cartons, non-glossy paper and cardboard

DO NOT feed your worms:

- Citrus
- Onion, Garlic, Chilli
- Dairy products
- Meat products
- Salt
- Oils or vinegar