

# WHY WORM MIX?

Prairie Worm Works sells all their worms in a "worm mix" instead of selling them by weight or by count

**It is a common misconception that you need 1 Lb or 1000 adult worms in order to start a new worm composting system.**

- A worm without its habitat is like a human without its teeth: it's very difficult to eat food!
- Worms rely on many "associates" to help them consume waste. Vermicompost is home to thousands of beneficial, microscopic bacteria, organisms, and fungi that break down food to the point that it can be drawn into the worms tiny, toothless mouth. In short, **your worm system WILL NOT WORK** without the **microscopic microorganisms** that live with the worms in their habitat.
- A worm mix includes cocoons which will produce babies within a month (2 - 8 worms per cocoon). Adult worms may take a month to even begin breeding within a new environment
- Worms sold by pound/by count will not have any cocoons, and are unlikely to contain beneficial bacteria, microorganisms and fungus necessary for a highly productive composting system.
- Adult worms become picky eaters, they won't adapt as well to new environments/new feedstocks as young worms do. Adults will have a "settling-in" phase that may last up to a month. They will actively avoid food, and may even attempt to escape the system.
- Hatchlings (new borns) will immediately become accustomed to food in their new environment and don't require a "settling-in" phase.

**Questions and Troubleshooting**

david@prairiewormworks.ca

