Worm Bin Information

Burying garbage:

- **How to bury garbage:**
  - Push bedding aside, creating a pocket big enough to put garbage into, add garbage should be slightly moistened)
- **Where to bury garbage:** there will be a sheet on the lid of your bin, showing 9 spots where garbage can be buried. Each time you bury garbage, bury it in the next numbered spot (i.e. after spot #3, bury in spot #4). Indicate on the record-keeping sheet the date when the garbage was buried and which spot it went into.
- **How much garbage to put in and how often:** roughly twice per week, total 3-5 pounds of garbage per week. If you have very small amounts of garbage at a time, consider saving them in a small container on the counter, and adding the contents of that bucket when it’s full. Otherwise garbage can be added directly to the bin.

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**What can and can’t go in:**

*YES:* any vegetable waste, egg shells, plate scrapings, grain/bread products, beans, nuts, spoiled food, tea leaves and bags, coffee grounds and filters

*NO:* meat (a little is OK, for example smalls chunks in a soup, but too much will rot and stink), bones, excess quantities of citrus, excess quantities of dairy products (will cause odor, add dairy very sparingly until you see how worms react) non-biodegradables

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**Record-keeping strategies:**

- indicate on sheet on outside of bin where you buried garbage so the next person knows. There will be a sheet on the lid of the bin showing where the 9 garbage-burying spots inside the bin are. When you place garbage in a spot, mark on the sheet which spot it was by writing that day's date in the corresponding box.
- indicate when new bedding was added and who added it on the record-keeping sheet
- indicate when bedding was completely changed and who changed it on the record-keeping sheet
Preparing bedding:

- At the beginning the container should be 3/4 full of moist bedding
- Prepare bedding by doing the following:
  1) Mix paper shreds with enough water to give the shreds a moisture content like a wrung-out sponge
  2) Add a couple handfuls of soil and mix in (only for first batch of bedding)
  3) spread worms on top of bedding and leave under light source: worms will crawl down into bedding
  4) You can now add your garbage

Maintenance:

- lid should always be on
- the less you disturb the worms, the better-off they are
- temperature needs: 59-77 degrees Fahrenheit
- bedding should be about as moist as a wrung-out sponge or by flicking it on from your hands) until bedding is slightly moist -OR- get some shredded paper moist and put that on top of the bin
- if there is too much moisture, add some dry paper shreds to top of bin
- if there is continually too much moisture, pour off the liquid and water a house plant or outside plant
- if bin smells, it may be too moist (add dry bedding), food waste may not be well enough buried (bury it deeper), or there may be too much garbage, especially food and dairy (make an overflow bucket by transferring some bedding and worms to another bucket - you can look for one in the REP room - and putting excess food there)
- add a layer of fresh, dry bedding at top of bin every 2-3 weeks
- every 2-3 months sort out worms and start again with fresh bedding. Let the worms sort themselves by doing the following...
  1) put vermicompost and worms to one side of bin
  2) put fresh bedding in other half of bin
  3) after about a week remove old vermicompost, putting more recent/uneaten garbage in the half with the new bedding and bringing old compost to REP to be sifted with the screen there (bring large food scraps and worms still remaining back to your worm bin). Leave finished compost material in one of the buckets available in REP
Burying garbage lite:

1) Check bin lid to see which of the 9 spots was last used. Your trash goes into the next highest number (except when going from #9 to #1).
2) Push aside bedding, making a pocket for your trash and put it inside.
3) Cover pocket with 1-2 inches of bedding (already in the bin, add new bedding if there's not enough to cover your trash)
4) Mark on the lid which spot you put your trash in and that day's date.

What each kit includes:

- laminated sheet showing the 9 spots (includes sus. intern contact e-mail)
- laminated poster detailing what can/can't go in, & condensed instructions about how to put in garbage (on same page)
- manual about maintenance
- record-keeping sheet
- all the stuff Rob already has in REP

Sustainability intern contact info: sustainability@kzoo.edu
Maddy's contact info: k10ms01@kzoo.edu, 612-481-3539