

Worm Bin Creatures

Worms work in concert with many other creatures.
Here are a few you will find in your worm bin.



Millipede

When I live in a worm bin I am usually less than an inch long. My name means a thousand legs but I don't really have that many. I have two or four legs on each segment of my body. I roll into a ball when disturbed.



Fruit Fly

I am a small fly. People don't like me but I don't bite, sting or make buzzing sounds. I don't harm earthworms either. You will see me around the worm bin, especially in spring and for sure if you forget to bury the food scraps. If I get too pesky, stop feeding the worm bin for a week or until I leave.



Soldier Fly Larvae

I hatch from an egg and will someday be a fly. I like hot weather and love to eat. Worms don't like me and may retreat to the lowest part of the bin until I fly away. You may want to discourage me by mixing in more shredded paper.



Sow Bug

I have 10 pairs of legs. That makes me an isopod like my cousin the Roly Poly, but I can't roll up into a ball like him. I eat vegetation and old leaves. I am related to crayfish and lobsters. I breathe with gills so I must live in a damp, moist place.



White Worm

I look like a frayed piece of thread. I am a skinny, white worm, about an inch long. I am related to the earthworm. I like to eat food scraps too, especially acidic ones.



Ant

I have six legs. I help to decompose food scraps by breaking them into smaller pieces. I create tunnels and move soil clumps. I don't harm earthworms. If I get too pesky, it is probably a sign that the bin is too dry.



Worm Cocoon

I am the size of a tiny bead. Before I have hatched I am yellow and the shape of a lemon. After I have hatched I turn darker. Two or more baby worms are hatched at once.

Questions?

www.compostsantacruzcounty.org



Mite

I am so tiny it would take 25 of me to cover an inch-long line. My body is round and fat so it's hard to see my eight legs. I eat mold, soft leaf tissue and the manure of other organisms.

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