

Encapsulated Earthworm Cocoons

Improve the structure and fertility of your garden and soil nature's way by hatching our specially selected Encapsulated Earthworm Eggs.

Indoor Hatching Directions:

Earthworm cocoons (eggs) should be refrigerated until you are ready to hatch them. However, the sooner you start the hatching process, the greater the hatching rate.

1. Place the encapsulated cocoons into a cup of water and let soak for 24 hours.
2. Flush the paper packaging material away from the cocoons by putting them into an ordinary kitchen strainer and gently spraying the cocoons until all of the packaging material has been washed from the cocoons.
3. Spread out the washed cocoons onto a wet paper towel and fold the paper towel in half and gently roll the towel up and place it in a zip lock plastic bag and store in a dark cool location.
4. Check the zip lock bag initially after 48 hours of placing them in the zip lock bag then every 24 hours to see if the earthworms have started to hatch.
5. As soon as you see newly hatched worms, remove the rolled-up paper towel with the remaining cocoons. (Do not to un-roll the towel) Bury the paper towel and cocoons a couple of inches below the soil's surface.

Most of your Encapsulated Earthworm Eggs will hatch. Your earthworms may hatch from their cocoons in a few days or it could take several weeks. The eggs are in a state of diapause and may continue to hatch months later. It is nature's way to ensure their survival.

Suggestion:

If you prefer to wait a little longer to "release" newly hatched worms take the following steps:

1. As soon as they hatch, place the babies onto a wet paper towel.
2. Fill a small container (a clear container enables for viewing of the earthworms) with moist soil from your garden or lawn.
3. Place the wet paper towel with the newly hatched worms upside down on the soil in the container.
4. Add approximately ½" of additional moist soil (not soaked) on top of the paper towel. Cover the container with a vented "escape proof" lid.
5. Feed the newly hatched earthworms Gardens Alive! Earth Worm Food sku #8819 or crushed cereal. Food should be spread evenly on top of the soil and an additional wet paper towel (towel should be kept moist) placed on top of it
6. Your earthworms will be fully grown after 2-3 months and are ready to be released out-of-doors into your garden, lawn, or compost pile.

Outdoor Hatching Instructions:

No need to handle live earthworms. You can plant the earthworm cocoons (eggs) right into your garden or soil just like you would any ordinary seed. If you can not "plant" your earthworm cocoons right away, keep the encapsulated cocoons refrigerated until you are ready to plant them. However, viability will diminish with time.

Outdoor Planting Recommendations:

Minimum planting recommendations are one egg per square foot. However, this is just a suggestion. Your soil can easily support 15-20 worms per square foot. Therefore the more eggs planted per square foot, the better the results. Hatching times will vary in your garden.