

Worms Get Busy with Greenwaste

Compost, potting mix and a range of soil booster products for your garden are made from your garden waste collected by Greenfingers.

"Greenfingers supplies Envirofert with the majority of their garden green waste which they turn into a number of compost products. It is great for us to show you the end product of your recycling," says Greenfingers Manager Mike Jones.

Envirofert has established a 16 acre vermiculture site, utilising various species of earthworm for composting and have started making a product called Wormacompost® or Vermicompost, from the latin 'Vermi' meaning worm. This wholly natural process sees green waste composted over a lengthy period.

After the green waste has been thermophilically* cooked several times, each worm will eat the composted

material up to 8 times. This leaves a stable, mature end product naturally rich in fungi and bacteria and key minerals such as phosphorous, potassium, calcium and magnesium, which collectively play a major role in plant establishment and growth.

Wormacompost® also delivers outstanding water retention characteristics, making it the ultimate growth medium for gardens, pots, hanging-baskets or any other type of planting situations where watering is important.

Independent tests show that Wormacompost® mixtures will achieve markedly superior performance to compost products.



Greenfingers currently operates three Hook Trucks that move over 17,000 tonnes of green waste annually from our local collection operations to our green waste composting partners. The largest bulk haul of green waste in New Zealand.

*Where the product heats between 50 degrees and 70 degrees centigrade.

LeafTurner

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Watch out there's Baby Bugs About!

As sponsor, Greenfingers is proud to announce that the Butterfly Creek wetapunga breeding programme has successfully produced its first batch of baby wetapunga. This is a significant achievement, being the first time wetapunga have been bred in captivity in any large scale.

Paul Barrett, head of the breeding programme, says he was hopeful breeding would occur when he observed that the females were gaining weight and becoming quite plump - an indication they were developing eggs.

"We then saw them pushing their ovipositors deep into the soil. We were very excited because this indicated that our mating attempts were productive and that the insects were in good health," he says.

It's been a long wait but the hatchlings are now squirming their way up through the soil to the surface. The incubation period has

been 6 to 11 months. They hatch from the egg in the form of a pre-nymph, work their way up to the surface and then moult into the true nymph. Once they have hardened their skin, they can then run and jump. At this stage they look like a tiny replica of the adult insect. (See picture).

The focus for Paul now is to meet the needs of these precious wee ones.

"They're lapping up the protein foods offered to them in the form of insects,

fish food, algae, leaves, flowers and new shoots. We keep the temperature as close to that experienced

on Little Barrier, Hauturu Island in an air-conditioned room maintained at 9 to 20 degrees Celsius," Paul explains.

Butterfly Creek and Greenfingers are delighted with the success of the programme.

The species is nationally endangered, found only on Little Barrier - Hauturu Island - and so it will be great to see the



the pre-nymph



the Mighty Wetapunga

Butterfly Creek /Greenfingers wetapunga established on other safe island retreats.

Greenfingers will update you on this release in our spring issue of Leafturner.



Super 8 - Wormacompost™ soil supplement A Greenfingers introductory offer



Super 8 wormacompost is better for root growth, plant performance and improved natural resistance against plant pathogens. Greenfingers is offering their Auckland customers a very good deal to buy 20 litre bags for only \$5 each! (Minimum purchase 3 bags).

Complete the coupon and send it off with your payment to: Greenfingers, PO Box 259-091, Botany 2163. Orders must be received by 30 April. Offer only valid whilst stock lasts. Trade is not supplied. Free Delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

The number of bags you are ordering:

Payment total: \$_____

We would like to collect some information from you so we can match our services to your needs.

Is this compost for your flower or vegetable garden, or both?

Do you have a Greenfingers bin or a bag?

Which season or time of year do you use compost most?

GARDEN COLLECTION CALENDAR

24 hour service
Manage your account online
www.gardenbags.co.nz

MAY 2010 ▶ SEPT 2010

Please mark your collection week with a tick

4 Weekly Customers Only (except where restricted)
You may skip 2 collections per year if your bag or bin is empty. HOWEVER, you MUST contact us before 3pm on the Friday prior to your collection week otherwise the normal collection charge will apply

APRIL 2010							MAY 2010							JUNE 2010							JULY 2010							AUGUST 2010							SEPTEMBER 2010																																																																																																																										
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Please use the internet for your enquiries
www.gardenbags.co.nz
If you do not have internet access then please phone:
Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm

Outside Free Call Area 0800 82 00 01

Waiuku Garden Bags (07) 838 2272
Tauranga (07) 847 1877
Auckland (09) 574 6285
Auckland (09) 279 5848

Collections generally completed Monday to Saturday
Christmas break & Public Holidays are indicated with a box



Terms and Conditions
1. Cannot be redeemed with any other special promo/offer. 2. Only one free child pass per customer. 3. Use by 28 February 2010. 4. This voucher is for Greenfingers customers only.

Greenfingers is giving free entry to Butterfly Creek for one child with a paying adult until 3 May 2010!

Please show this Greenfingers customer voucher to receive this special offer.

BUTTERFLY creek
Tom Pearce Drive, Auckland International Airport.



From Mike's desk

Welcome to the Autumn issue of LeafTurner.

As we head into Autumn, gardeners are starting to prepare for the darker, colder months ahead. This means clearing away seeded plants, checking that bulbs are in order and most importantly, starting to think compost and mulch. Good compost going down now means what comes up later is better.

Aren't the baby wetapunga cute. They are being well protected now, so not quite on display but we are offering a discount to Butterfly Creek to start at the Easter holidays as there is heaps to do and see there and you can hear all about the wetapunga breeding programme we sponsor.

I went to the UK a few months ago and was really energised and inspired by how they recycle their food waste. We can do it here too and I am working towards that.

On the back page you will find a coupon for you to buy specially wormacompost from Envirofert. What I like about this introductory offer is that much of the Envirofert compost is made from your green waste collected by Greenfingers. You are completing a cycle of life by us taking it away and taking it to be composted and then you turn it back onto your garden when it is ready. This is surely a sustainable way of living!

As always, we value your feedback and welcome any questions. So if you require any assistance with your garden waste please call the Greenfingers team on 0800 82 00 00.



Worried About Your Food Waste?

Greenfingers is working with a number of councils to introduce collections of food waste from households.

At Greenfingers we want to see councils put in recycling systems that are going to work best for you and for the environment. There is a great opportunity for you to make a real difference by separating out food waste for composting. We are sure that what is working well in other places (like the UK and Europe) will work here as well.

On his recent trip to the UK, Greenfingers Managing Director Mike Jones studied their food waste collections to see how the best of their systems could be imported into NZ.

As a New Zealander with dual UK citizenship, Mike was also able to attend the UK government funded WRAP* food waste Management Training Program.

"WRAP* has thoroughly researched

why people waste food, how to reduce it and what works best when collecting it," says Mike.

After analysing the results from earlier systems, WRAP* has made some important changes in the way food waste collections are carried out.

"The best system is to give people a kitchen 'caddy' with biodegradable liners that they use in the kitchen. When this is full, the liner is tied off and placed in a kerbside bin which is put out for collection once a week.

"We think there is a real opportunity for councils, in particular the new Auckland Super City Council when it comes in, to put in these types of best-practice systems. If they do this, it will help keep rate payer costs down, and ensure

the waste is put to good use rather than causing harm in a landfill," Mike explains.

Collecting the food separately from

garden waste has been found to result in better participation by householders, less contamination, better quality compost, and lower overall costs.

*Waste Resources Action Programme

Why Separate Out Food Waste?

Typically about 40% of the waste you throw out in your household (by weight) will be food waste. Work in the UK, USA and Australia shows that this equates to about one third of all the food we buy! When this waste is sent to a landfill it generates methane – a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than CO₂. Yet if we can separate this waste out and compost it, then it makes great fertiliser that can be used on gardens and farms. This is much better for you and the environment.



Won't It Be Messy And Smelly?

This is most people's first reaction, but with the right systems it is actually a lot less smelly and messy than putting food in with the rest of the rubbish. The trick is to use a kitchen caddy (small container, see picture top left) that are vented so they allow air to flow around the food waste. This dries it out and stops it from becoming smelly and slimy. Properly used, handling food waste in this way is easy and pleasant, and the caddies and bins should rarely, if ever, need washing out.



GPS keeps us trucking

GPS technology is now used in 30 vehicles in the Greenfingers fleet. This is making it quicker and easier for us to get to you and remove your green waste. We can better track our vehicles and run an even more efficient operation.

For those who don't know what GPS is exactly – it is the Global Positioning System (GPS) – which lets us know where our vehicles are. The benefit for customers is a more efficient service with our ability to know where our trucks have been working.



The Greenfingers Team

Since starting out in the late 1980s, Green Fingers has become one of the leading garden waste recycling firms in New Zealand, serving Waikato, Hamilton, Auckland and Tauranga.

All the waste we collect is converted into high quality compost, and we are constantly searching out new ways to be a greener business in other ways too.