

Vermicomposting

Manoj Kumar¹, Dr. Shilpa Kaushal²

University institute of Agricultural Science, Chandigarh University Gharuhan, Distt-Mohali, Punjab, India

Abstract: Vermicast is a natural waste decomposition system using worms to produce a better end product called Vermicast. Vermicompost is considered a natural fertilizer because it is rich in nutrients and has the effect of loosening the soil. The water-soluble nutrients in vermicompost increase the amount of nutrients available, including better soil properties, such as drainage. Worms feed on natural wastes such as paper, manure, crop residues, leftovers and garden waste and convert them into valuable products such as worm feed, worm tea and vermicompost. cinnamon, etc. In addition, vermicompost acts as an organic matter. fertilizers and biological control agents have the effect of eradicating many types of plant diseases caused by pathogens and soil-transmitted insects. Other soil indicators, such as nitrogen and the C/N ratio can be improved by including vermicompost. Another adverse effect of heavy metals can also be mitigated. It also provides many useful viruses with various benefits. However, other obstacles, such as the production of dangerous greenhouse gases, such as nitrous oxide and methane, occur. However, it was concluded that native vermicompost is better than conventionally processed manure as it contains at least four times more nutrients than cow manure. On the one hand, tropical soils do not have all the nutrients needed by plants, on the other hand, many nutrients found in household waste and agricultural products are wasted. In nature, there are several organisms that have the potential to turn waste into valuable resources. This helps maintain nutrient flow and reduces environmental degradation. One of those materials is earthworms, which can be recycled into valuable compost called vermicompost. Vermicompost has a number of advantages when used in agriculture.

Keywords: Vermicompost; earthworm; organic; nutrients; by-products

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of the "green revolution" in the 1960s, many agrochemicals have been used to increase food production, but agrochemicals reduce the "environmental resistance" of plants making them susceptible to diseases, pests and killing. soil types. Beings also destroy their natural offspring. People's health is also not affected by chemical nutrients. It has been proven that the use of organic materials as garden waste.¹⁵⁷ Human waste, livestock manure, sewage, uneaten food and agricultural manure contribute to the growth and yield of crops and increase soil fertility. It has been proven that new methods of using natural supplements in agriculture are effective in increasing crop yields, increasing soil fertility, and improving soil structure. Vermicomposting is said to be a cost-effective, efficient and quick way to effectively use natural waste and crop residues. Vermicomposting is a nonthermophilic biodegradation of organisms through the combined action of worms and microorganisms. Worms are reportedly acting as mechanical compounds. Worms that move organisms and change their physical, chemical and environmental properties and gradually reduce their C: N. Increasing the surface area of organisms makes them more susceptible to microbial infection, bacterial activity, and rotting. The process of making vermicompost is faster than regular compost because it passes through the intestines of the worms to speed up the process. Worm products (vermicompost) are rich in plant growth control, microbial activity and are protected with insect repellents. Remnants of agriculture and remnants of the food industry contain large and varied wastes. Industrial waste recycling, composting and vermicomposting is a useful technology that can be used on an industrial level. These recycled products increase soil nutrients, grow well and gain commercial value. Coffee beans have been found to be able to perform vermicomposting and composting.

Earthworm:

Worms are vertebrates of the class Annelida and class Oligochaeta. This worm is so named because they almost always stay on the ground and crawl on nutrient-rich soil, only going out at night to feed. Worms are soft-skinned, long filamentous, alligator-like, soft-skinned animals with rings like structures corresponding to the length of their bodies. These sections are composed of segments, which are arranged consecutively and are underlined externally by circular cracks called annulars. About 4, 400 species of worms have been identified worldwide. However, none of these compounds are used in vermicompost. Worms are actively involved in the breakdown of organic matter in all processes related to the intestines, which act in the digestion and absorption of organisms and microorganisms in the intestine and in the intestine. As it passes through the intestines, some germs begin to grow, and some remain intact, while others are absorbed through the intestinal tract and thus decrease in value. Microorganisms, especially fungal and protozoan spores and other resistant strains of viruses, can reach the newly formed worms after passing through the earth's crust. These newly added particles are usually rich in ammonia nitrogen and relatively well digestible organisms and thus provide a good substrate for bacterial growth. Worm composting process:

- 1) Under the cement ring, cover a sheet of polythene or brick or coconut shell.
- 2) On a polythene sheet, cover with a layer of organic waste 1520 cm thick. Spray phosphate rock if it's in the trash and spread the cow dung slurry. Completely fill the ring with layers. Glue earth or cow dung to glue the top of the ring. Let the material rot for 15-20 days.
- 3) When the heat release is completed in the decomposition of building materials, the free-selected worms (500-700) through the cracks will explode. • To prevent birds from getting worms, secure the ring with a mesh or gun bag. To maintain the proper humidity and body temperature of the larvae, spray with water every three days.

- 4) If the agricultural waste is used for about 2 months, the vermicompost is ready, and if the mulberry waste is used as a medium, it is ready in 4 weeks. Processed vermicompost has no unpleasant odor, is dark and light in color.
- 5) When the compost is ready, do not water the compost for 23 days to facilitate replacement. Apply the compost to a small pile and leave in ambient conditions for a few hours when all the worms have settled into the pile in the bed. To separate the worms from the manure, remove the top of the manure and sieve the bottom.
- 6) Cocoons, teens and adults are different stages of the worm life cycle, which is carried by culture in bed. Shift this custom to a new rotten feed section. Remnants and large worms can be used to feed fish or poultry. Store compost in bags and in a cool place.
- 7) Do another batch about 20 days before removing the compost and repeat the process described.

Precautions during the process:

- 1) Suitable varieties for vermicompost preparation are the African species of worms, *Eisenia fetida* and *Eudriluseugane*. Indian varieties are not suitable for vermicompost preparation.
- 2) When preparing vermicompost, only plant-based materials such as grass, leaves or vegetable leaves should be used.
- 3) Animal articles such as chicken manure, eggshells, meat, bones, etc. not suitable for vermicompost transformation.
- 4) *Gliricidia* should not be planted with deep pruning, tobacco leaves.
- 5) Worms should be protected from rodents, birds, and termites.
- 6) During the process, proper humidity should be maintained. Lack of moisture or dirty water can kill worms.
- 7) When the process is complete, the vermicompost should be removed from the bed immediately and replaced with new waste.

Precautions to be taken during the procedure:

- 1) African types of worms, *Eisenia fetida* and *Eudriluseugane*, are suitable varieties for vermicompost manufacturing.
- 2) Vermicomposting is not possible with Indian types.
- 3) Only plant-based materials such as grass, leaves, or vegetable leaves should be utilised to make vermicompost.
- 4) Animal products such as chicken dung, eggshells, meat, bones, and other animal waste are not suited for vermicomposting.
- 5) *Gliricidia* should not be planted with tobacco leaves or thorough trimming.
- 6) Rodents, birds, and termites should be kept away from worms.
- 7) Proper humidity should be maintained throughout the operation.
- 8) Worms can be killed by a lack of moisture or unclean water.
- 9) When the process is finished, remove the vermicompost from the bed as soon as possible and replace it with new garbage.

Importance of Vermicompost

Nitrogen mineralization

Worms considerably improve soil fertility, resulting in a huge amount of mineralized N that is readily available for plant growth. There is an increase in soil nitrogen after worms are grown. The Earthworm body consists of 3% ash, 14% fat, 14% carbohydrates, and 65% protein. When the worm dies, about 0.01 g of nitrate is absorbed into the soil and 72% of its dry weight is protein. Worms also consume a big number of plant creatures that contain a significant amount of nitrogen, which is released in sufficient quantities to return to the soil. It has been claimed that when worms appear, N mineralization improves and is deposited in the soil as nitrate.

Effect on C: N Ratio:

Plant roots cannot usually adapt to mineral N unless the carbon to nitrogen (C: N) ratio is less than 20: 1. Worms aid in the reduction of a new organism's C: N ratio during respiration. To quantify the involvement of the earthworm in the C: N stress ratio, carbon consumption should be approximated by measuring respiration. The C: N ratio, NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium), electrical conductivity (EC), and organic carbon content of vermicomposting using a 1: 1 mixture of leaf and cow dung have all exhibited significant differences when compared to external worm controls. The C: N ratio of vermicompost was found to be higher than that of compost, which was surprising.

Microbiological Studies

Micro-flora Vermiwash for *Azotobacter*, *Agrobacterium*, *Rhizobium*, and Phosphate-Solubilizing Microbes should be used instead of Johnson's medium, *Rhizobium* medium, and agar medium for *Azotobacter*, *Agrobacterium*, *Rhizobium*, and Phosphate-Solubilizing Microbes.

Vermiwash

Vermiwash contains earthworm-produced enzymes that help plants develop and yield more. It also includes soluble plant nutrients, in addition to various organic acids, worm mucus, and bacteria. Vermiwash is a set of chemicals that continuously remove soil and earthworm leftovers while also providing micronutrients from the soil's living creatures. After the introduction of vermiwash spray, it also relieves plant suffering.

Extract Formulation

Warm water is used to submerge the worms, which are then left at room temperature for 30 minutes. At 3000 rpm for 10 minutes, filter the enzyme extraction to remove soluble compounds. Using a 0.2m membrane filter, the filter is then made cell-free.

Preparation of Soil Extract Agar

Soil collected from water is filtered using a basic filter paper. A 2.5 percent agar filtrate is applied and pasted onto pasteurised soil to form an agar medium-producing soil. Pasteurized extract is added to the filtered vermiwash at a rate of 5% (v/v),.

2. Conclusion

Vermicomposting is a more profitable process than composting. This is mainly owing to the amount of 'humus' in the vermicompost produced by earthworms, and the fact that humus takes too long to form in the regular fertilisation process due to the slow breakdown of organic waste. Vermicomposting organic waste, in my opinion, will be quite beneficial in resolving the waste disposal issue. Plant nutrients are recycled, which decreases the need for inorganic fertilisers. If caterpillars are present, African species outperform Indian species. Vermicomposting is a cost-effective, easy, and ecologically beneficial process. It may readily be expanded with a range of valuable products made from grape marc, allowing it to be used in industrial applications. It is critical to adhere to this method of manufacture, as well as the right use and industrial use of coffee goods. The price can be modified in a natural way by confirming these products. Vermiwash has found potential application in the sustainable development of agricultural biotechnology due to its origin, cost-effectiveness, simplicity of access, time savings, replication, reliability, and environmental compatibility. By increasing microbial activity and microbial biomass, which are crucial components in cycling, the generation of plant growth regulators, and the protection of plants from soil-borne diseases and pest infestations, vermicompost improves soil quality. Farmers can participate in the "Cent Vermicompost Scheme," which is run by the government. The goal of this initiative is to help farmers set up and operate their vermicompost facilities, as well as to help with investment and operational needs.

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