

Summary

The best natural means of converting solid waste is vermicomposting. Organic wastes can be broken down and fragmented rapidly by earthworms, resulting in a stable nontoxic material with good structure which has a potentially high economic value as soil conditioner for plant growth. Vermicompost is finely divided peat like material with excellent structure, porosity, aeration, drainage and moisture-holding capacity. Finished vermicompost should have a rich, earthy smell if properly processed by worms. Vermicompost can be used in potting soil mixes for house plants and as a top dressing for lawns. Screened vermicompost combined with potting soil mixes make an excellent medium for starting young seedlings. Vermicompost also makes an excellent mulch and soil conditioner for the home garden.