

WORM TUBES

Kate Jerome of Pleasant Prairie, WI writes on the web about a fascinating and interesting garden invention. It's Worm Tubes! The premise is to have a place actually in the garden into which you can put vegetable scraps; the worms then come into the bottom of the tube, eat through the scraps and move out into the garden to deposit their castings.

There are several different methods for creating these tubes. One source used metal drain pipe, another used large plastic pots glued or wired together at their tops. The bottoms were cut out and the bottom pot was drilled with holes. Six-inch PVC drain pipes work well too. Cut into three-foot sections with a circular or hacksaw. Drill one-inch holes in the bottom foot of the pipes with a hole saw. The tops need to be covered to keep out flies. You can purchase PVC caps but small terra cotta pots with a piece of screen covering the drain hole works well. They are heavy enough to stay in place, lighter weight lids would need a rock on top to keep them from blowing off.

These tubes sticking up in the garden also function as bird perches. Having insect-eating birds find a ready place to sit and watch for prey is an added bonus. Put a little finished compost in each tube, add some kitchen scraps and then a bit of soil. Now sit back and watch and know that your kitchen waste is being worm-composted.