

# *Vegetable/Flower Applications of Wormcastings & Wormcasting Tea*

## **Fall Fertilization**

Put down 1-2 tons per acre of wormcastings in the Fall as top dressing on top of the crop residue.

## **Spring Soil Drench**

Initially apply 15 gallons of wormcasting tea per acre 2 weeks before planting in the spring. In the fall, as a soil drench, use 15 gallons per acre directly on top of the plant residue.

## **Seed Treat**

Fungicide-free seed should be rolled in wormcasting tea with VAM spores before planting in the spring. If fungicide treated, place 5 gallons per acre of wormcasting tea in planting row under the seed.

## **Spring/Summer Foliar Sprays**

For foliar sprays, use 5 gallons of wormcasting tea per acre or mixed in the correct amount of water during the growing season starting at 2 weeks before bud break. Drench foliage and stems every 10-14 days. Do not spray when bees are trying to pollinate.

## **Additional Nutrients Needed?**

The first and possibly the second year may need additional nutrients while nutrient cycling is getting started, so add nutrients to the wormcasting tea or with the wormcastings according to requirements. For any nutrient deficiencies that show up, do a petiole analysis, add the nutrients lacking to the wormcasting tea, and apply. The organisms in the solution increase the ability of the plant to take up the nutrients faster.

## **Transplanting**

For transplanting trees use 30-50% wormcastings with site soil. Gradually mix into site soil away from the plant so there are no sharp demarcations.

## **Pesticides**

If any pesticides are used, apply wormcasting tea 3 to 5 days after application and continue with prescribed program. Then continue every 10-14 days until harvest.

## **Cover Crops**

Cover crops can be planted between the rows.

## **Disease & Pests**

When the extension service gives disease or pest warning alerts, apply the wormcasting tea (with an additional registered biocontrol agent in the wormcasting tea, if available) weekly until the alert stops. Then continue every 10-14 days until harvest. If a disease outbreak occurs, apply the wormcasting tea immediately, every 3-5 days until disease leaves.

## **Water Usage**

Water usage will decrease as the soil microbiology rebuilds the soil health. Typically, in the first year a 30% decrease in water use has been seen, and by the second and third years, up to 50-60% total decrease in water use. Please remember to reduce water applications when using wormcasting teas.

## **Decrease Usage**

After 4-5 years and the soil is healthy, solution usage will decrease to seasonally or during pest or disease alert.