
Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by Srenre - 2009/09/27 19:11

Has anyone tested this? With all the hype around both products I was hoping to find a paper that studied it already.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by Swimmus - 2009/11/20 19:58

I have no paper on it, but my kid did a research study for his science class for (home)school in which her grew grass seeds in 4 different mediums and measured the results.

The grass seed grown in worm compost was grew out full and higher in the time period he designated.

Miracle gro was just behind it in size but farther behind in the fullness.

Potting soil come in third and significantly distant

Soil from our yard was the growing medium used as a medium and it was less than everything else.

The worm compost by far was better for sprouting the seeds for sure and growing to about 3 inches in height. Stopped after about 1 month.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by BigTexWorms - 2010/01/29 16:20

My daughter home schools too and we are going to do this as a science far project this spring. Funny. We are going to do flowers or herbs.

Liz

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by nuismom - 2010/02/14 14:00

Did you use 100% worm castings, or did you mix castings with additional something for your worm compost medium? Was your Miracle Gro a "dirt" medium of its own, or was that an "add to the watering" solution? Hope my questions are understandable. Thanks.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by cathd - 2010/02/21 10:05

BigTexWorms wrote:

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Liz

As a side project, (or backup) it might be worth doing a few containers with grass seed. Grass germinates easily, grows quickly, and if you use a shallow clear container like a salad container from the supermarket(covered in paper to exclude light)the difference in root health can also be seen easily.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by BigTexWorms - 2010/02/21 20:25

The clear planter would have been awesome but we already started the project 3 weeks ago. I went with lettuce. And the one in castings sprouted 7 days before the chemical fertilizer one. I will post pictures soon.
Liz

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by mikel - 2010/02/21 22:03

Hi, Liz
What is the ratio of worm castings in the planter? What type of chemical fertilizer?

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by WistarWorms - 2010/08/13 09:46

Have been conducting a small experiment of my own using some leftover seeds from the Spring.

In two medium size pots, I planted a squash seed. In one pot I used Miracle Grow Water Retaining Potting Mix. In the second pot I used the same thing, but added 20% worm castings to it. Both mixtures got the same amount of sunlight and water.

Both seeds sprouted and grew at the same rate during the first few weeks. But after about a month's time, the plant in the potting mixture with the castings is now much taller and much fuller. This weekend will add Miracle Grow to both plants and see if the smaller plant will catch up to it's taller brother.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by mikel - 2010/08/13 20:43

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Just a thought but what about adding some miracle grow to the plant to the one that doesn't have worm castings in it and adding worm tea for the other.

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Re:Castings vs. Miracle gro?

Posted by BigTexWorms - 2010/08/16 11:33

I agree, keep one chemical and the other non chemical (worm), if you change to both being chemical then it will "pollute" the results.
Please post pics of your results.

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