



Reproduction / Temperature Requirements

Eisenia Fetida (foetida) - also Eisenia Andrei

common names: redworm, red wiggler, manure worm, tiger worm

Reproduction rates under ideal conditions:

- 3.8 cocoons per adult per week
- 83.2% hatching success rate
- 3.3 hatchlings per cocoon
- Net reproduction of 10.4 young per adult per week

Maximum growth rate under ideal conditions:

- 32-73 days to cocoon hatch
- 53-76 days to sexual maturity
- 85-149 days from egg to maturity

Temperature requirements (F)

- Minimum 38
- Maximum 95
- Ideal range 70-80

Heat tolerance is dependent on moisture level. *Eisenia fetida* redworms are extremely tolerant of environmental fluctuation and handling, and the species is identified by research as the most effective for vermicomposting in the widest range of feed stocks and environments.

Eisenia hortensis (Dendrobaen veneta)

Common names: Belgian nightcrawler, European nightcrawler

Maximum reproduction under ideal conditions:

- 1.6 cocoons per adult per week
- 81.2% hatching success rate
- 1.1 hatchlings per cocoon
- Net reproduction of 1.4 young per adult per week

Maximum growth rate under ideal conditions:

- 40-128 days to cocoon hatch
- 57-86 days to sexual maturity
- 97-214 days from egg to maturity

Temperature requirements (F)

- Minimum 38
- Maximum 90
- Ideal 60-70

Heat tolerance is dependent on moisture level. This worm is very tolerant of environmental fluctuation and handling, but has a slower reproductive rate and requires very high maintenance relative to other worm species.