Earthworms in the Landscape

Today on Gardening in a Minute: earthworms in the landscape.

Of all the creatures in your garden to worry about, the earthworm is not one of them.

Earthworms are an important part of healthy soils. As they travel through the soil, they feed on organic matter and convert it into rich humus called worm castings.

Their activities enhance the decomposition of organic matter and contribute to the makeup of the soil.

Earthworm burrows aerate the soil and provide paths for roots to grow and water to infiltrate.

There are lots of different kinds of earthworms, and they’re all beneficial. To encourage earthworms in the landscape, use organic mulch to build up the amount of organic matter.

You can also try your hand at vermicomposting to get rid of kitchen scraps and reap the benefits of worm castings.

For more information on earthworms and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension and WUFT-FM.