

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 4-27-05) Worms Glorious Worms & May Day Events  
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Holly James is a dynamo and her forte is vermicompost and cheering on the employees of Kitsap E-Z Earth. She coordinates and markets the by-product from millions of worms tended by employees from Peninsula Services at Kitsap E-Z Earth located at the Skills Center at 101 National Avenue in Bremerton. The crew consists of eight special needs adults supervised by a vocational trainer.

E-Z Earth will soon receive the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certification for a 100 percent organic product. E-Z Earth's vermicompost base was previously manure with organic materials thrown into the mix. James wanted their E-Z Earth product to be instantly safe for use on vegetable gardens so E-Z Earth now uses a grain-based product rather than a manure-based product. In addition to the grain byproducts the worms feast upon pre-consumer veggies, coffee grounds, newspaper shreds and fine sawdust from cleancut lumber. The vermicompost is tested every month by Twiss Labs in Poulsbo and Soil Food Web. In addition to vermicompost E-Z Earth will soon offer vermicompost tea bags. No not for you to drink, it's for your plants.

Holly likened the vermicompost to "pastries for your plants." She said, "E-Z Earth provides meaningful employment for people with disabilities." Products are available weekdays from the National Avenue site. A 1-1/2 pound bag of sifted, bagged vermicompost is \$3.50; ten-pound bags are \$18. E-Z Earth worm bins to take home for your own homegrown vermicompost are: \$38.95 for an 18-gallon bin; \$34.95 for a 14-gallon bin and \$25.95 for a small worm bin (according to the website). These home vermicomposting systems include the worms too. If you want to build your own home worm bin instead, you can purchase a pound of worms to start from E-Z Earth for \$18.

Call 360-377-3989 to place an order. You can also visit the site on National Avenue Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a tour or to purchase their products. The website is [www.kitsapezeearth.com](http://www.kitsapezeearth.com) and email is [ez-info@kitsapezeearth.com](mailto:ez-info@kitsapezeearth.com). Holly James will visit your group, or chat individually, to tell you even more about Kitsap E-Z Earth.

Last week I listed the locations for the WSU Master Gardener plant problem and information clinics throughout the county. Alas, even though Bainbridge Farmers Market was very generous to us, we couldn't figure out how to store or schlep all our materials plus a tent, table and chairs from one Master Gardener's home to another's each week. Stay tuned in 2006 though and we'll have the logistics figured out and a group of MGs will happily be back at the wonderful Bainbridge Farmers Market as well as Ace Hardware. Remember on Bainbridge you'll still find Master Gardeners at Ace Hardware on both Thursdays and Saturdays.

Don't miss the Second Annual May Day Festival at Café Destino, 1223 McKenzie in Bremerton from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday May 1. The event celebrates organic

gardening and community. You'll find arts and crafts vendors, Master Gardeners, activities for kids, veggie starts, a plant swap and informational booths covering natural lawn care and composting. You'll want to attend this great event sponsored by Bremerton Urban Gardening Society (BUGS). Better yet, become a member of BUGS. Their meetings are the third Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Room 406. For information about BUGS contact Carolee Valentine 360-405-6423 or [ckvalentine@hotmail.com](mailto:ckvalentine@hotmail.com).

The gardening season is ramping up. Find out how to start plants from seed both indoors and directly sown in the ground. Master Gardener Kim Schleis will walk you through the process at the Anna Smith Garden from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday May 1. Master Gardener Sandy Bochonok will fill you with information on Plant a Row (PAR). This nationwide program encourages gardeners to grow an extra row for the hungry when planting gardens. Both presenters will be there to get you growing and harvesting this year. The class is completely free. Parking is in the lot at the intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Tracyton Boulevard.

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