



# Worm Charming Competition

Schools across the UK are invited to take part in the Primary Schools Worm Charming Competition as part of 'Worm Week' from 23 to 29 March 2009. School children will be encouraged to charm the worms of their playing fields or gardens to the surface using whatever wacky methods they can think of. The deadline for submitting the results is **30<sup>th</sup> April 2009**.

## First Prize

The school that charms the most worms wins a free Bug Day led by Martin Rapley, The Bug Man for the school ([www.thebugman.co.uk](http://www.thebugman.co.uk)).

## Runner Up

The school that charms the second highest total number of worms wins an outdoor worm composting kit with a voucher entitling them to a free pot of live worms to get the wormery started.

## The Rules

1. Mark out a plot 20m x 20m (20 paces). We would advise a maximum of 15 children per plot and one main supervisor to collect and count the worms.
2. The total charming time is 15 minutes.

## Worm Charming

3. The worms can be charmed by stamping your feet, dancing, making vibrations by sticking a garden fork in the ground, music, or whatever wacky methods you can think of.
4. No liquids (this includes water), mustard seed or salt should be used.
5. Digging is not allowed.

6. Equipment can be created or adapted if you believe it will help charm more worms.

### **The Worms**

7. Worms must be handled with care (don't pull the worms out of the ground, be patient and wait until the worms come out) and placed in suitable containers with damp soil (see how to create the perfect container on the Buglife website).
8. The worms must be released at the end of the day when the birds have gone to roost.

### **Submitting your results**

9. You can submit your results online by visiting [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)
10. You can download a paper entry form and post results to:

Worm Charming Competition  
Buglife  
First Floor  
90 Bridge Street  
Peterborough  
PE1 1DY

## TOP TIPS FOR SUCESSFUL WORM CHARMING

**Pick your site carefully** - choose an area that has not been over trampled. The worms do not like compact soil. An area that has bare soil may be better than an area covered in grass because the matted roots make it difficult for the worms to come to the surface quickly. Look for an area with lots of worm casts.

**Think about your charming methods** - The best charming methods involve making vibrations in the soil. Using items such as a garden fork and wobbling it aggressively in the soil for a few minutes can work.

**Secret stash of worms!** - We don't want the children to be disappointed if they do not find any worms. Prior to the charming event we would advise putting a few worms in a pot with some moist soil and leaving in a dark place. These worms can be brought out into the classroom and studied if charming is unsuccessful.

**Digging!** - In the worst case scenario you can dig to find worms. BUT any worms found by digging should not be counted or submitted in to the worm charming competition.

If you would like to send your best worm charming photos to Buglife so we can use them on our website and in our publications, e-mail us at [info@buglife.org.uk](mailto:info@buglife.org.uk). Please make sure you have full permission from the children's parents before you send the photographs to us.

## **Worm Charming Competition Rules**

1. Only Buglife has access to your personal details and we will not pass them on to anyone else. You must provide Buglife with the required details if you wish to enter this competition.
2. Only one entry is accepted per school.
3. Entries must be submitted online using the Worm Charming form on the Buglife website. Postal entries must be sent to the correct postal address and recording sheets must be fully completed.
4. This competition is only open to UK schools.
5. All entries must be received by 5pm on April 30th 2009. Buglife does not accept any responsibility for late or lost entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
6. The competition winners will be contacted personally. In the event of there being no reply from the phone number, email address or postal address supplied.
7. Prizes must be taken as stated - there will be no cash alternatives.
8. Entrants must comply with all rules to be eligible for the prizes. Ineligible entries or fraudulently entries will be automatically disqualified.
9. This competition is not open to Buglife employees or contractors or any person directly or indirectly involved in the organisation or running the competition, or their direct family members.
10. Buglife's decision is final.