

The Grindal Experiment by Lou Bott

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There's nothing like success to make a person happy and just have to tell somebody. Whether it's spawning a new species of fish making a million dollars, shooting a ten point buck, or finding a new medium for grindal worms, it all feels great.

This writing is about a new home for grindal worms. I was down to my last five boxes of magic worm bedding in the three pound yellow box and Wall mart was out again. The last time they were out I tried the sponge method which worked but was very short lived. The time before that, it was cooking peat moss and other ingredients but way too much work. On the internet they praise ground coconut shell available at pet stores. I would have tried it but the price per pound was more than steak. Too frugal for that and anyway I still had five boxes left.

One day after making coffee and taking grounds out to the compost pile I thought about the ground coconut shell and wondered if the ground coffee beans might work. Drinking a lot of coffee the next four days I had enough grounds to give it a try but mold was already starting to grow on top so up to the compost pile they all went.

Some mornings later, I was sitting at the kitchen table watching the sun come up while the coffee perked and filled the room with that great smell. The perking coffee gave me the idea. Slow perk the grindals. Yes! Much too wet for mold and bacteria would be washed through.

My guppy's and betta's have eaten millions of grindals from this experiment that started ten months ago. A long time for one culture to survive and still be working but today it's over and this is what I used. An open container with five small holes for drainage in the bottom and two inches of used coffee grounds placed on a stone inside a five quart ice cream pail with a lid. Grindals and food were added and just enough aged water to make it really wet. The food (dog food pellets) was placed around the sides so worms could be harvested from the side with a popsicle stick without removing the container. Every two days they were harvested, fed, and watered. Every six days the pail was emptied and cleaned.

Today, this experiment is over and I'm happy to call it a success and tell you about it. I didn't like cleaning the ice cream pail but perking grindals was fun and if you're frugal, give it a shot. Used coffee grounds are free.