



**VermaPlex™ & Black Castings™**

Natural Organic Plant Food produced by Earthworms  
<http://www.prairiesedgeorganics.com/>



**South Moon Blueberry Farm**  
Cross Creek, Florida

Sorting and Grading Organic Blueberries



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### South Moon Blueberry Farm Cross Creek, Florida

From: Karen Beatty <[southmoonfarmorganics@yahoo.com](mailto:southmoonfarmorganics@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: testimony of worm castings and vermaplex  
To: [karan@gru.net](mailto:karan@gru.net), [larry@vermitechnology.com](mailto:larry@vermitechnology.com)

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2008, 10:48 AM

So sorry this has taken me so long to send.

**South Moon Farm**, a blueberry farm with two varieties of bushes, became mine in May, 2006, after being traditionally farmed for many years by the former owner. Having a holistic background, my desire was to transition to organic as soon as possible. I found it challenging to find the information I needed to make this transition. My concerns varied from how to handle fungus and insects, as well nutrient and drought issues. I found one company online and tried their products with a result that was far from what I wanted. After 2 years of struggling to piece the information and products together, I lucked out when my friends Karan and Gary Goeser came to my U-Pick to pick berries. They spoke of an organic fertilizer with worm castings and something called **Vermaplex™**. I remember feeling very excited and my instincts were to jump on this immediately.

So, in Summer of 2007, I started using both of these products, with the pure Black Castings™ on the base of the bushes and the **Vermaplex™** sprayed on the bushes. I couldn't wait to see the results with the crop harvest in Spring 2008. Having had a severe drought in No. Central Florida all year, my bushes was challenged. I continued to hand weed and not apply anything for fungus or insect repellents. When I saw the amount of berries on the bushes in early April I was shocked and delighted. Also, the bushes were vibrantly healthy, with no signs of fungus or insect damage. When the berries ripened, it was an amazing sight to see such a prolific harvest with wonderfully tasting berries. At that point, I felt so much gratitude for Larry Martin, Karan & Gary Goeser for turning me on to their products. I now am well on my way to getting my organic certification and can't wait to tell Florida Organic Farmers what I've been using. I now feel VERY secure in knowing the future of my farm, knowing I can count on a great harvest each year, despite conditions of drought, insects or anything else. This stuff is a gift from God, only nature could produce. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to grow anything, from a small home garden to a commercial venture like mine. My farm is truly blessed and my bushes are gleaming with health!



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### **The South Moon Blueberry Farm**

South moon has 2 varieties of berries, the Highbush and Rabbit Eye. The High Bush is an early bloomer and the Rabbit Eye blooms and fruits later. The owner of the 2 acres had decided to go organic when she bought her land and is going thru all the work required to do so. The process takes 3 years and takes lots of record keeping, you must document all products used on the land and the bushes and they need to be an approved organic product for use on food crops. The 2 acres consist of 16 rows of High Bush and 14 rows of Rabbit Eyes a total of 1500 bushes.

My wife and I were looking for a place to pick berries in 2007 and found South Moon in Cross Creek, Fl. The owner was there when we went picking and that's when we introduced her to our organic products, **Pure Black Castings™** and **VermaPlex™**. She had been using some other organics but wasn't happy because of the high costs and trouble finding good help. We ended up doing some of her pruning and fertilization on the High Bush, and she had another crew for the Rabbit Eyes. She did some major cutting back in early 2006 and it hurt her 2007 crop so she was not sure if she was going to sell her property or not.

Along comes the crop for 2008 the High Bush made her more profit than the whole 2 acres did in 2007. The results are because she put the time in to take care of the bushes properly and finding the products we were able to provide for her use to be everything that a blueberry needs to bloom and fruit better than she ever had in the time she owned the land. As this is being written she is still having U-Pic every weekend and is still picking on the 3rd week of July 2008.

With the results the property is no longer on the market and she has started her fertilization in preparation for next years crop. She has started with 18-40lb. bags of **Black Castings™** Organic Fertilizer, 20gal. of **VermaPlex™** and 18- 40lb. bags of Sustane Organic Fertilizer 8-2-4 85% slow release fertilizer per acre. She will use 10gal. **VermaPlex™** per acre for July, August, September and October. In October she will use another 18 bags/acre of both fertilizers and make them ready for their dormant period.

In October her 3 years of preparing for her organic certification will be up so all crops from here on out will be certified organic and her berries will be worth more because of her efforts. This year she was able to sell as organically grown and still got \$9.00 per pound in Naples, Fl.

Written by Gary Goeser  
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### **TDK Landscape, Inc** **Premier Estate Landscaping** **Westmanchester, New York**

*In third year of converting from chemical lawn care and  
landscaping to sustainable*

7-8-08

Subj: Little League Ball Field  
Fertilization Program Evaluation.  
From: Tom Karzan, TDK Landscape, Inc.  
To: Larry Martin, Vermitechnology Unlimited, Inc

I treated this Westchester County, NY Little League Field with the Sports Fields Fertilizer Program. So far, 156 games played on the field and it looks better than last year when the first game was played. It is holding up the best that they have ever seen. This is the first year that the grass under the shade trees of the estates has grown in super well and not much different than the grass in full sun. It is looks full and healthy, like I have never before seen using the chemical fertilizers.

I have switched all of my estate landscaping and maintenance accounts from the chemical fertilizers to the pure **Black Castings™** and the **VermaPlex™** soil biological inoculant.

This “stuff” really works!

Tom Karzan, Westchester Co., NY



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### Centennial event is one shady deal Bellaire, TX 2008

By ANNE MARIE KILDAY

A Drummond red maple tree was planted in **Bellaire Town Square** Saturday by Mayor Cindy Siegel, Boy Scouts from Troop 222, parks and recreation staff, and **John Teas** of the eponymous nursery that was a part of Bellaire's founding. The Centennial Tree, a 65-gallon Drummond red maple, was donated to the city by children who collected pennies and by customers of Community National Bank. The bank donated contributions from customers during its annual piggy bank event, aimed at teaching children to save.

The Centennial Tree "is a great gift to Bellaire's future," Siegel said. At a brief ceremony at the gazebo behind the city's municipal building, Siegel recalled that she had once bragged about the beautiful tree canopy in Bellaire to an official of Trees for Houston. The non-profit organization promotes tree preservation and plantings. "And he said to me, 'You need to think about planting trees for the future,'" Siegel recalled.

Teas recounted a brief history of the 98-year old nursery business that is responsible for many of the trees in Bellaire, and West University Place, and on the campuses of Rice University and Texas Medical Center areas.

Teas brought along a five-pound bag of **Black Castings™**, "to "give the soil life" around the newly planted maple tree. The organic fertilizer is made from earthworms' "castings" and will enrich the tree without harmful residue for the next three months, Teas explained.

The Drummond red maple is named for a Scotsman who was a plant biologist who came to Texas in the early 1900s to track and record species of native plants, Teas explained.

The 25-foot maple planted in the city park will likely grow to about 100 feet tall, but the Houston-area climate is not usually conducive to the tree's leaves turning red in the fall, Teas said.

It takes temperatures of about 45 degrees, and sustained periods of dryness to see red maples turn colors in this area, Teas said.

Although the mayor lifted a shovel to spread landscape mulch around the tree, it had already been "planted" by staffers of the city's parks and recreation department. Due to heavy rains early Saturday, the tree planting ceremony was slightly muddy. Several small pine trees, donated by Texas, were given away as prizes at the ceremony. A couple of Scouts, and Bellaire's Assistant Chief of Police Byron Holloway and City Councilman Pat McLaughlan were among the winners.



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United States Department of Agriculture

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

### CSREES Research Results

Worm Power: The Future of Composting

Last Updated: 07/30/2007

If the average cow produces 100 pounds of manure a day, how does a dairy farmer manage all the excess waste?

Worm Power benefits from process-controlled and quality-engineered vermicomposting process. Vermicomposting is the process of breaking down organic matter using earthworms. The worms eat the organic matter and generate castings that serve as a nutrient-rich, natural fertilizer.

Initially, the manure is subjected to a series of heat treatments in a composting process to ensure the elimination of weed seeds and potential pathogens to meet U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency standards. Next, red worms, a specific type of earthworm used for vermiculture, digest the organic waste. The worms' digestive system, along with bacteria inside the digestive tract, accelerates the decomposition and stabilization of the organic matter.

The process is also fast and efficient. One pound of worms can digest up to a half pound of organic material per day. The process can transform 1,320,000 pounds of raw manure into a high-quality soil fertility product in approximately 60 days. The final product has the wonderful look and feel of dark coffee grounds with a pleasant, slightly earthy aroma.

The link between earthworm activity and healthy soil has long been documented, but recent advances in microbiology and soil chemistry have proven a direct link between soil fertility and vermicomposted materials. Worm Power enriches the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil allowing it to thrive even under the most demanding environmental conditions. In addition, it improves plant development, as well as root growth and structure of plants.

CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations.