

Horticulture

Research Protocols

Worm Castings for Cabbage Production

Objective: Determine if applying worm castings to cabbage has any effect on cabbage yield.

Farmer-cooperator, Mark Quee, will:

- Take photos throughout the project and send to PFI for use in research report and blog.
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Spring 2015**, start cabbage seedlings and transplant to field when appropriate.
- Establish a minimum of 4 replications at the time of transplanting as shown in the diagram below with randomized and replicated plots of:
 - Cabbage with no worm castings (control)
 - Cabbage with worm castings (castings)
- **Summer 2015**, make note of all management practices throughout the growing season.
- **Fall 2015**, harvest cabbage from each plot separately: record number of heads harvested per plot and total weight of cabbage harvested per plot.
- Turn in data to Practical Farmers of Iowa at the end of project by October 2015.

Pair 1	Pair 2	Pair 3	Pair 4
Castings	Control	Control	Castings
Control	Castings	Castings	Control

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Help set up research protocol.
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets.
- Reimburse costs of seed.
- Provide \$550 cooperator payment at conclusion of project year.