

HOMEMADE COMPOST TEA FERTILIZER

What Is Compost Tea Fertilizer?

Compost tea is an organic liquid fertilizer that is made from soaking compost in water. It contains plant nutrients and useful soil bacteria.

A compost tea is generally produced by combining one volume of compost material with several volumes of water. This type of liquid fertilizer can be administered to plants with a sprayer or by drenching the soil surrounding the plants.

Steps To Make Homemade Compost Tea

Step 1:

Fill a bucket 1/3 full of quality finished compost

Step 2:

Add water to the top of the bucket (unchlorinated is best, or good well water).

Step 3:

Let the mixture soak for 3-4 days. Stir it now and then.

Step 4:

Strain the mixture through a cloth or other porous fabric into another bucket. You can use the remaining solids to your garden or compost bin.

Step 5:

Dilute the remaining liquid with water so that it is the color of weak tea (use a 10:1 ratio of water to tea).

Step 6:

Use tea immediately for optimal absorption into the soil around plants.

Compost Tea Making Tips

The following factors will determine the quality of the finished tea:

1. Use well-aged, finished compost
Unfinished compost may contain harmful pathogens and compost that is too old may be nutritionally deficient.
2. Using well-made, high quality compost you can brew up a mild batch in as little as an hour or let it brew for a week or more for a super concentrate.

A good median is to let the tea brew for 24-48 hours. When it begins to smell "yeasty" you can stop and apply it to your plants.

3. Research has shown that passing water through the mixture and adding a sugar source (eg molasses) results in a better product that extracts the maximum number of beneficial organisms. This aeration is crucial to the formation of beneficial bacteria and the required fermentation process. For the simple bucket-brewing approach, simply stir the tea a few times during those hours or days it is brewing.

Using The Compost Tea

For Trees, or established plants in the vegetable garden

Pour the tea from the bucket around the root system at the base of the plant.

As a Foliar Spray

It can be used as a foliar spray on plant leaves. Just add 1/2 of a tablespoon of vegetable oil for 5 litres to help it stick to leaves.

