



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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COMPOST TEA from earthworm castings.

Liquid fertilizers made from manure and compost have been around for centuries. What's new are the bubbling technique and specific ingredients, which cause the growth of beneficial microbes that displace and even go after all the bad spores and germs that prey on and kill plants.

Compost tea can be sprayed on leaves or added to the soil to form a protective barrier against bad fungi and bacteria. Repeated applications revitalizes the soil and allows the cultivation of plants without the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN

To make your own compost tea is not expensive or difficult. All you need is a food source, earth worm castings, and a bucket to mix it in. You will need a five gallon bucket, a fish tank aeration pump, tubing, air stones, and a nylon sock.

1. Place air stones in bucket with the proper connections to the aeration pump which is outside of the bucket. Fill bucket with water. And run the pump for one hour to allow the chlorine in the water to bubble out.
2. Add sugar, kelp concentrate, humic acid concentrate, to the water.
The mix for the brewing tank is:
 - Two tablespoons of sugar
 - Two liquid ounces seaweed concentrate
 - Two liquid ounces humic acid concentrate

Add the above to the water in bucket. Place ½ pound of earthworm castings into a nylon sock or a cheese cloth package. Suspend the earthworm casting in solution in the bucket, allowing the pump to run for at least 24 hours to complete the brewing step. The tea is now ready to use.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

GARDENS, FLOWERS, AND ORNAMENTALS: At the time of planting, drench ground with 6 ounces of tea in sufficient water to cover 100 square feet. When crop emerges and reaches the three to four true leaf stage, spray with 3 ounces of tea in sufficient water to completely cover the leaves and ground. Repeat applications every 7 to 10 days during the growing season. It is recommended to discontinue usage at fruit filling stages at least two weeks prior to picking.

TURF AND LARGE ACREAGE: Apply to soil two week prior to planting at a rate of 10 gallons per acre. Two to three weeks after emergence, spray crop with 5 gallons of tea in per acre in sufficient water for proper coverage. Repeat application monthly during the growing season.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: The spent casting from brewing can be used as a soil conditioner. It is best to use the tea within 48 hours. Prior to producing additional batches, the equipment should be cleaned. Foul odors from either the tea or equipment may signify the presence of unwanted bacteria.