

ACTIVELY AERATED COMPOST TEA

Compost tea can help boost micro-organism populations of your soil, increasing beneficial interactions within the soil and between soil and plants. Applied to soil around plants it both adds nutrients to the soil and increases plant uptake of nutrients. It can be sprayed onto sheet mulch to aid the breaking down process and can also be used as foliar spray to both protect the plants and fertilize them. Effective control of powdery mildew and other pathogens Great for container garden situations to boost microbial interactions in the otherwise sterile potting soil.

You need:

5 gallon bucket (or bigger!)

1 gallon mature compost or worm compost

1 aquarium pump (bigger is better!)

1 long waterstone

3 feet hose to fit pump

Compost tea bag or paint strainer bag (optional)

non-chloraminated water *

unsulphered molasses

* Chloramine will wipe out the beneficial bacteria you are trying to help proliferate. Use spring water or rebalance tap water by using a chloramine removal product (for fish tanks, in the same section you get the aquarium pump) or a teaspoon of powdered vitamin C.

optional additions: fish emulsions, mycogrow or other mycorrhizal inoculants, alfalfa, manures, kelp, blood meal etc.

1. Test your pump and airstone in water to make sure you get a good amount of bubbles. The microorganisms need air to proliferate.
2. Add compost directly to the bucket, or fill your strainer bag and suspend in the bucket. If using optional additions, add now.
3. Fill with non-chloraminated water* to within 6 inches of the top
4. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ c molasses or so per 5 gallons
5. Start the pump
6. Let it brew 2-3 days. The tea should smell sweet and earthy.
7. Use immediately. Spray directly onto plants and water around the base of plants. This process can be repeated every two weeks or more irregularly as desired.

