

Compost Tea

Product Guide

Questions? Contact us at (888) 784-1722 or helpdesk@groworganic.com

Compost tea is basically a concentrated compost extract that provides all the biological benefits of compost in an easy to apply liquid. Peaceful Valley brews "actively aerated" tea, which means we use a brewer to pump air through water in a tank that has compost suspended in baskets. The air pump provides both oxygen and agitation in order to loosen and release the microorganisms living within the compost. The microorganisms include bacteria, protozoa, fungi, microarthropods and nematodes. When the tea is applied, those microorganisms colonize the soil and the surface of plants, which increases the vitality of the soil and the ability of the plants to fend off disease. Using compost tea regularly will ensure a good balance of beneficial biology and support a healthy soil food web (see the book *Teaming With Microbes* for more info if interested in this topic).

We have chosen to use a high quality, locally and biodynamically produced compost from Fulcrum Farm. During the brewing process, a specially formulated catalyst is added to provide food for the microbes so they can reproduce and thrive. The catalyst contains soluble kelp extract, humic acids, and mineral powder. To maintain healthy microbial activity, it is essential to apply the tea as soon as possible after purchase, and to use non-chlorinated water if diluting. There are a couple of ways to get rid of the chlorine in municipal water; one is to use a De-Chlorinating Filter (we carry Gard'n Gro - #WOT800), another is to simply fill a container with water and let it sit for 24 hours before using (the chlorine will dissipate naturally).

Application: Compost Tea can be used at full strength or diluted for more coverage. Our tea will not burn plants, so the more tea applied per square foot the better! For applying as a soil soak, use a watering can or apply through a drip system. For applying as a foliar spray, use a pump sprayer or hose end sprayer.

Dilution Rates

- For a soil soak, use .5-1 gallon of tea per 1,000 sq ft.
- For a foliar spray, 1-2 quarts per 1,000 sq ft.
- Mix enough water with tea to achieve the coverage above.
- Be sure to water the area before applying as a soak, since dry soil is not good for the microbes to move through.
- If applying as a foliar, spray for full coverage including the undersides of leaves.

Frequency of Application: Compost tea should be applied regularly through the growing season (as often as possible, or every 7 - 14 days). Increase the frequency during periods of plant stress (disease, insect infestation, environmental stress, etc.)

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