

Easy Compost Tea Maker

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What is a Compost Tea Maker?

- **A container in which you create a solution that is rich and nutritious and full of microbial organisms for your garden soil (inside plant containers, too.)**
- **Is easy and very “green” (recycling)**
- **Easy to apply, nutrients immediately available to soil/plants.**

Why would you want a compost tea maker?

**When you make compost tea you
create an all natural growth
mixture for all of your plants –
inside or outside**

**Free food for your soil which in
turn feeds your plants!**

Materials needed:

Small sized tea maker:

- **5 gallon bucket with lid**
- **Small aquarium air pump**
- **Air line and air stone**
- **Mesh bag (or knee hi stocking) for compost**
- **Weight to hold air stone in place**
- **Clamp to hold mesh bag**
- **2 Tablespoons Molasses, honey or Karo**

Step 1:

- **Put 1 cup of compost into an old knee-hi stocking or fine mesh/net bag**



Step 2:

- **Clamp bag to top of bucket**



Step 3:

- **Attach air line to air pump**



Step 4:

- **Attach air stone to end of air line**



Step 5:

- **Place air stone (one/two) in the bottom of the bucket and set a stone on top to hold it down**



Step 6:

- **Fill the bucket with water and add the Karo or molasses to feed the microbes – stir well.**



Step 7:

- **Plug in the air pump – be sure the air stone is held down on bottom**



Step 8:

- Let it “brew” for 24 hours



Step 9

- **The tea should be a rich brown color with little or no odor.**



Step 10:

- Use 1 pint of tea to 1 gallon of water and feed your garden soil. For house plant soil use 1 cup of tea per gallon of water.



**For larger sized tea brewers,
use appropriately larger
materials (air line, pump,
stones) You can make any size
you want as long as the
aeration is adequate. However,
freshness of the mix is
important. Use it within a day
or two.**

55 Gallon containers would require an air pump with multiple air line attachment points so several large stones can be used.



Finished Compost Tea:

- **Rich brown color**
- **Little or no order**
- **Using less is wise - experiment.**
- **Cut the mix with water to increase coverage.**



Remember: Compost tea feeds the soil microbes not the plant. It is the relationship between the soil and the plant that is improved and enhanced.

By introducing the compost tea, you create a more positive interaction between the soil microbes and the plant roots, allowing for better nutrient take-up.

Benefits:

- **Compost tea offers nutrients that are easily and quickly available to the plant.**
- **A drench on the leaves and root zone brings a double benefit. Much is absorbed thru the leaves.**
- **Micro nutrients are also in the solution and are available to the plant quickly.**

Frequency of Use:

- **Ideally applications could be made about every 10 days.**
- **If your supply is limited, dilute to 20% compost tea and 80% water**
- **Study your plants and watch the results of your applications.**
- **Monitor the ingredients carefully.**

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