



Info Sheet: Compost tea

What is compost tea: Compost tea is a liquid fertiliser and tonic made from compost or vermicompost (worm poo). It is aerated during the brewing process to ensure the rapid growth of the organisms, including beneficial bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes.

The application of compost tea ensures your plants are healthy as they are growing in soils that are vibrant and full of microbial life.



How to apply: Compost tea is easy to apply. You can just dilute some in a watering can and apply to your plants and soil. Alternatively you can spray it on. The dilution rate is not critical as you can use it quite strong or dilute it up to 1 in 10 or more to make it go further.



Make your own: You can make your own compost tea by suspending a hessian or shade-cloth “tea bag” of compost in a tub or drum of water. Make sure the water does not have too much chlorine by using tank water or allowing chlorinated town water to stand for about 12 hours before adding the compost. Aerate by stirring at least two or three times a day over about a week or attach an aquarium pump. Dilute about 1 in 4 before applying.

A better quality compost tea is made with a special brewer with an air pump that ensures continuous and thorough aeration.

KTH compost tea: Kyneton Transition Hub’s compost tea brewer produces a very high quality product. We add molasses, a special microbial inoculant as well as some other nutrients, and use the best quality compost available. Regular brews are made during the warmer months and are available at the Kyneton Farmers Market and other events. The tea is usually not as potent if brewed during



the cold months. It is best to apply the compost tea within a few hours of brewing being complete to ensure you have the full strength of microbes.

We can supply small quantities for your garden or a full 200 litre batch for large gardens and farms. Our prices are competitive as one of our key aims is to enhance the productivity of our local farms and gardens to contribute to a sustainable future. Full batches can be tailored to your requirements.

Some other teas and tonics:

- Weed tea – submerge weeds in water for about 6 weeks until they break down. Use the drained liquid on the garden as it is rich in nutrients from the weeds. This method ensures weed seeds are not reintroduced to your garden and is especially helpful for running grass and other persistent weeds. Just composting them may run the risk of them returning.
- Manure tea – similar to weed and compost tea but you use fresh manure and only need to brew it for a few hours.
- Worm tea or juice (or wee) – if you have a worm farm make sure you use the juice as well as the castings.
- Fish emulsion
- Seaweed extract

*If you want more information or would like to see a demonstration
please contact Kyneton Transition Hub
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or phone Julie on 5422 3023.*