

Compost Tea

A liquid feed brewed from finished compost

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE One-off batch, repeated as needed

TIME 24–48 hours to brew



DIFFICULTY
Easy



TIME
24–48 hrs



COST
Low



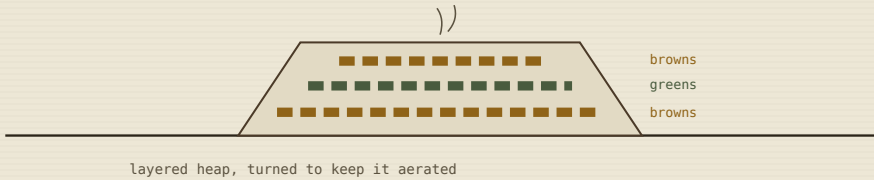
BEST SEASON
Growing season



FREQUENCY
Every 2–4 weeks

01 Steeped, not boiled

Compost tea is simply finished compost steeped in water to extract soluble nutrients and beneficial microbes, then applied as a liquid feed — a fast way to deliver a nutrient boost compared to solid compost.



02 What you'll need

- Finished, mature compost or worm castings
- A bucket or barrel
- A porous bag or old pillowcase to hold the compost (optional but keeps it strainable)
- An aquarium pump for aeration (optional, improves quality)

03 Method

1. Fill a porous bag with 1–2 handfuls of finished compost per litre of water, or add loose compost directly.
2. Submerge in a bucket of water — rainwater or dechlorinated tap water is best.
3. Steep for 24–48 hours, stirring occasionally, or aerate with a pump for better results.
4. Strain out solids if not using a bag.
5. Dilute if concentrated, and apply directly to soil or as a light foliar spray.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Smells bad/anaerobic** — brewed too long or without enough airflow; use within 48 hours and aerate if possible.
- **No visible benefit** — compost tea is a supplement, not a substitute for good soil-building; use alongside, not instead of, regular compost.
- **Clogged sprayer** — strain thoroughly before using in a spray applicator.
- **Over-application** — more isn't better; stick to a light, regular feeding rhythm rather than heavy, infrequent doses.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Throughout the growing season, timed with active growth phases.
DURATION	Each batch brews in 24–48 hours and should be used fresh, within a day or two.
MAINTENANCE	Brew a fresh batch every few weeks rather than trying to store it — it doesn't keep well.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	A rich brown liquid with an earthy, not foul, smell.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Worm Farming (Vermicomposting)

Hot Composting

COMMON MISTAKES

Letting the brew sit too long and turn anaerobic

Expecting it to replace solid compost rather than supplement it

PRO TIP

Worm castings make a particularly potent compost tea — a little goes a long way.