



## **Making Compost Tea**

### **Compost tea nourishes and creates a "living shield":**

- Liquid Fertilizer: Compost tea dates back to ancient times. It is a liquid fertilizer extracted from compost.
- Leaf Diseases: When used as a foliar spray, the beneficial organisms of the Compost Tea will inhabit the leaf's surface and suppress plant diseases and destroy toxins.
- Root Diseases: TEMESI Compost and Compost Tea contain beneficial fungi that live in symbiosis with plant roots. As example, the Trichoderma species are opportunistic, anti-virulent and feed on malicious fungi. They also help plants to take up nutrients. On demand, TEMESI Compost can be spiked with Trichoderma fungi.

### **There are two methods to make Compost Tea:**

#### 1. Simple extraction of compost tea without aeration

Fill a 20 liter bucket one third with Cured Compost. Then fill the bucket with water, leaving room to stir the mixture without spilling. Leave the bucket out of direct sunlight, stirring at least once per day, for 7 to 14 days. Strain the compost tea when brewing is complete by pouring the tea into a cheesecloth-topped separate 20 liter bucket. Alternatively the compost can be filled into a porous sack which is immersed like a tea bag into a bucket for easy extraction.

Be sure to stir the mixture at least once a day to provide some oxygen for the tea making process. Without enough oxygen, anaerobic bacteria can start to grow and make your compost tea useless and smell bad. This compost tea is basically a liquid fertilizer

#### 2. Brewing of compost tea with aeration

The same method as above is used with the difference that air is blown into the brew. In a 20 liter bucket, the microorganisms need 30 liter of air per minute, which requires a strong aquarium pump. The extraction is finished after 20 to 24 hours. After the aeration is stopped the compost tea must be applied within 4 hours.

Contrary to the first method, the active aeration produces much more beneficial microorganisms. Adding 20 grams of molasses increases the production of bacteria and/or 50 grams of milk increases the production of fungi. Beneficial microorganisms are almost always aerobic and require air to breathe.

### **Application:**

- As a fertilizer, the product of both methods should be diluted 5 to 10 times.
- Against plant diseases only the brew of the second method is effective.
  - For root diseases, the brew is applied directly or diluted up to 10 times.
  - For leave diseases, the brew is diluted 10 to 50 times and then sprayed on the leaves.

### **Useful hints:**

- The more the compost tea is diluted, the more often it should be applied.
- Use only Cured Compost in plastic buckets, metallic containers may kill microorganisms.
- Do not use chlorinated water, it will kill the microorganisms. If your water is chlorinated, allow the water to be aerated overnight before you add the cured compost. If you're not using aerators, allow the bucket of water to sit for at least two days for the chlorine to evaporate out of the water.