

## Compost Tea- IT'S ALIVE!

**Actively Aerated Compost tea is a brewed product teaming with beneficial organisms.** It is brewed with nutrients that promote their growth. Ingredients in our brewed tea are all natural and include:

- Alaska Hummus
- Earth Worm Castings
- Fish Emulsion
- Kelp Meal
- Alfalfa Meal
- Granular Humic Acids
- Molasses

### Compost Tea...

- Promotes nutrient cycling and plant growth by introducing beneficial micro-organisms. These micro-organisms live on and break down organic and inorganic materials to make nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium more available to plants.
- Provides plant protection by occupying the space around infection sites so disease-causing organisms cannot penetrate into the tissues of the plant.
- Contains micro-organisms that break down and feed on toxins built up in anaerobic or compacted soil. (soil with no air flow)
- Creates a safer place for people and animals by using an organic product, reducing the need for chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Cannot be over applied because it is a completely natural and organic product.

### Application Rates – How Much and How Often?

1 gal per 9000 square feet if applied as a foliar feed (spraying on the leaves of plants). This must be done when it is not raining.

1 gal per 2000 square feet if applied as a soil drench (watering directly on soil).

To determine how often to apply compost tea consider the following recommendation. If you are starting with a new garden and the soil is less than optimal, apply compost tea once a week for the duration of the first growing season. Apply once a month during the second season. Apply once in the fall and once in the spring for every year after.

This product is living. It is best to use this tea as soon as possible in order to maintain the high concentration and diversity of life. All living things need oxygen. As time passes; the oxygen is depleted or used and the organisms begin to die off. **The tea is no longer good to use once it smells sour.** This can take as long as three days. However, organisms start to die off within 14 hours of brew time.

To assist the efficacy of the compost tea we recommend that you get a mineral analysis and a PH test of your soil and amend your soil accordingly. This can be done through the Cooperative Extension. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/> 786-6300. Please remember that compost tea is not a fertilizer. **It is a brewed product teaming with beneficial organisms.** You may need to provide additional nutrients to your soil. This could be as simple as adding one inch of compost annually.