



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide technical resource information and methods of land use to private land owners and to promote and support the stewardship of natural resources.



COMPOST TEA

Compost tea is a blend of decomposed organic matter, water, and oxygen that is brewed to give plants a nutrient boost. Using regular compost as a base, a liquid is produced which contains bacteria, fungi, and other microbes into an organic liquid fertilizer called compost tea. Though compost tea contains all the same organisms as the compost before brewing, the tea concentrates the nutrients into a liquid form making them easily utilized by plants.

There are two definitions of compost tea: actively aerated and compost extractions. Actively aerated compost tea adds food and air to the compost and then brews, or ferments, the tea. In contrast, compost extraction removes the soluble nutrients and organisms that are on the compost and suspends them in water. Advocates of compost tea herald the following benefits in both types of compost tea:

- Improves soil health minimizing or eliminating the need for fertilizers
- Improves moisture retention in soil reducing the need for watering
- Improves soil structure when used regularly
- Helps loosen clay soils, helps sandy soils retain moisture
- Stimulates plant root growth
- Increases plant growth rate and yield
- Helps plant defend against pests and disease
- Combats the negative effects of chemical-based pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on soil biology (bioremediation)

Many thorough resources are available online to teach how to make compost tea. Some methods are simply soaking compost in water and using it immediately (compost extractions), some are more complex brewing process (actively aerated), but all



have avid followers who strongly endorse the effect that compost tea has on soil and plants.

Here in the Discovery Garden a composting station sits on the south side of the garden west of the Hoop House. We use this as a resource in educating the public as well as to increase the overall biological health of the garden.

RESOURCES

WEBSITES TO REFERENCE

<https://treeyopermacultureedu.com/chapter-8-soils/compost-teas-and-extracts/>

VIDEOS TO REFERENCE

Aerated Compost Tea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcQD0m9WfQE>

<https://vergepermaculture.ca/2012/06/14/compost-brews/>

Compost Tea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gaws0PwRLn4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyWit_6SNpo

LIBRARY TITLES FROM THE MCPLD COLLECTION

- 1) The compost tea brewing manual
- 2) Yankee magazine's panty hose, hot peppers, tea bags, and more-- for the garden: 1,001 ingenious ways to use common household items to control weeds, beat pests, cook compost, solve problems, make tricky jobs easy, and save time
- 3) Teaming with microbes: the organic gardener's guide to the soil food web
- 4) Grow your soil!: harness the power of the soil food web to create your best garden ever

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MESA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
& THE DISCOVERY GARDEN, PLEASE VISIT MESACD.COM**



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