



# Compost Tea



Applying compost tea is the most effective way to transition quickly to a safe, healthy and self-sustaining lawn. It immediately greens up the lawn.

## What is Compost Tea?

- Compost tea is simply compost that has “steeped” in room temperature water.
- This process grows populations of beneficial microorganisms and suspends nutrients in water so that they are immediately available to the grass.

## The Many Benefits

- ✓ Greens up the lawn immediately.
- ✓ Improves soil health.
- ✓ Protects against insects and disease.
- ✓ Can be applied as often as you like, without harming the grass or our water bodies.
- ✓ Best way to transition to a lush, low-maintenance lawn, if you have relied on fertilizers and pesticides in the past.

## When Can You Apply It?

- Apply at least three times per year, early spring through late fall (essentially, as often as you like).
- You do not need to consult your soil test results to apply compost tea. You can not damage your soil or your grass with fresh compost tea.

## Hire a Lawn Care Professional

- More and more professionals are using compost tea.
- Some offer high quality brews, tailored to your soil's needs.

## Home Brewing?

### Here's What You'll Need\*

1. Mesh bag or Stocking
2. High quality compost
3. 5 gallon bucket
4. Aquarium pump with pumice stone
5. Siphon (found at garden stores)
6. Garden Hose & Sprayer

\* You can buy a kit, but this way is very affordable.

## Easy to Make

1. Put a large scoop of high quality compost in the mesh bag.
2. Nearly fill the 5 gallon bucket with water. (If on town water, let water sit for 24 hours so that the chlorine evaporates.)
3. Sink the mesh bag of compost into the bucket of water.
4. Attach the pumice stone to the aquarium pump's tube and sink stone into the water. Turn on the pump.
5. Brew for 24-36 hours. Aeration will brew the tea.
6. Add 1 heaping tablespoon of molasses just before applying.

Check out an excellent how-to video at [www.safelawns.org](http://www.safelawns.org)!

## Easy to Apply

- 1 quart per 1,000 sq. ft., diluted with water.
- Sink siphon into bucket and attach to outdoor faucet. Attach garden hose to siphon and spray.
- Use extra compost tea on shrubs, flowerbeds and vegetable gardens.



For a healthy maine