



How To Brew Compost Tea

(in a 5 gallon bucket)

Brewing a batch of compost tea is an excellent way to make a modest amount of worm castings stretch further. This recipe will turn 1 quart of worm castings into 8 gallons of compost tea. By suspending the worm castings in water, aerating, and adding molasses as an energy source you will dramatically increase populations of beneficial organisms. The tea needs to brew for 2-3 days in a warm room (65F) and then be applied within the hour, before it goes anaerobic. Compost tea can be used in a variety of ways: to encourage strong root growth and enhance life in the soil, water-in at the base of the plant; to suppress foliar diseases and provide nutrient uptake through the leaves, use as a foliar spray; or apply to inoculate a compost pile or composting toilet.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- 4 Gallons of water (non-chlorinated)*
- 1 Quart of Black Dirt Farm High Potency Worm Castings (ideally, Tea Grade)
- 5 Tablespoons of unsulphured molasses
- A Black Dirt Farm Compost Tea Kit; or make your own with a 5-gallon bucket, an aquarium pump, air stones, a gang valve, and tubing.

*Water: If your tap water is chlorinated, you will need to remove the chlorine or it will kill the organisms you are trying to grow. Fill a bucket with water and leave it out overnight. Place the air stones in the water and turn on the pump for an hour to off-gas the chlorine.

**For further information and more targeted recipes visit www.blackdirtfarm.com

BREWING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add 4 gallons of chlorine-free water to a bucket and add molasses. Stir until in solution.
2. Add 1 quart of Worm Castings to the bucket, and give the mixture a vigorous stir. Position air stones at the bottom of the bucket underneath the Worm Castings. Turn on the pump.
3. Aerate for 48-72 hours in a warm room. Stir the mixture a few times daily, repositioning the air stones afterwards to ensure they are well placed.
4. Brew for no longer than 72 hours. Turn off the pump, and let the sediment settle for 20 minutes.
5. Pour off liquid into another bucket. Filter through pantyhose or a fine sieve if applying with a sprayer.
6. Dilute with 4 gallons of non-chlorinated water and use immediately.
7. Clean bucket & air stones before putting away.

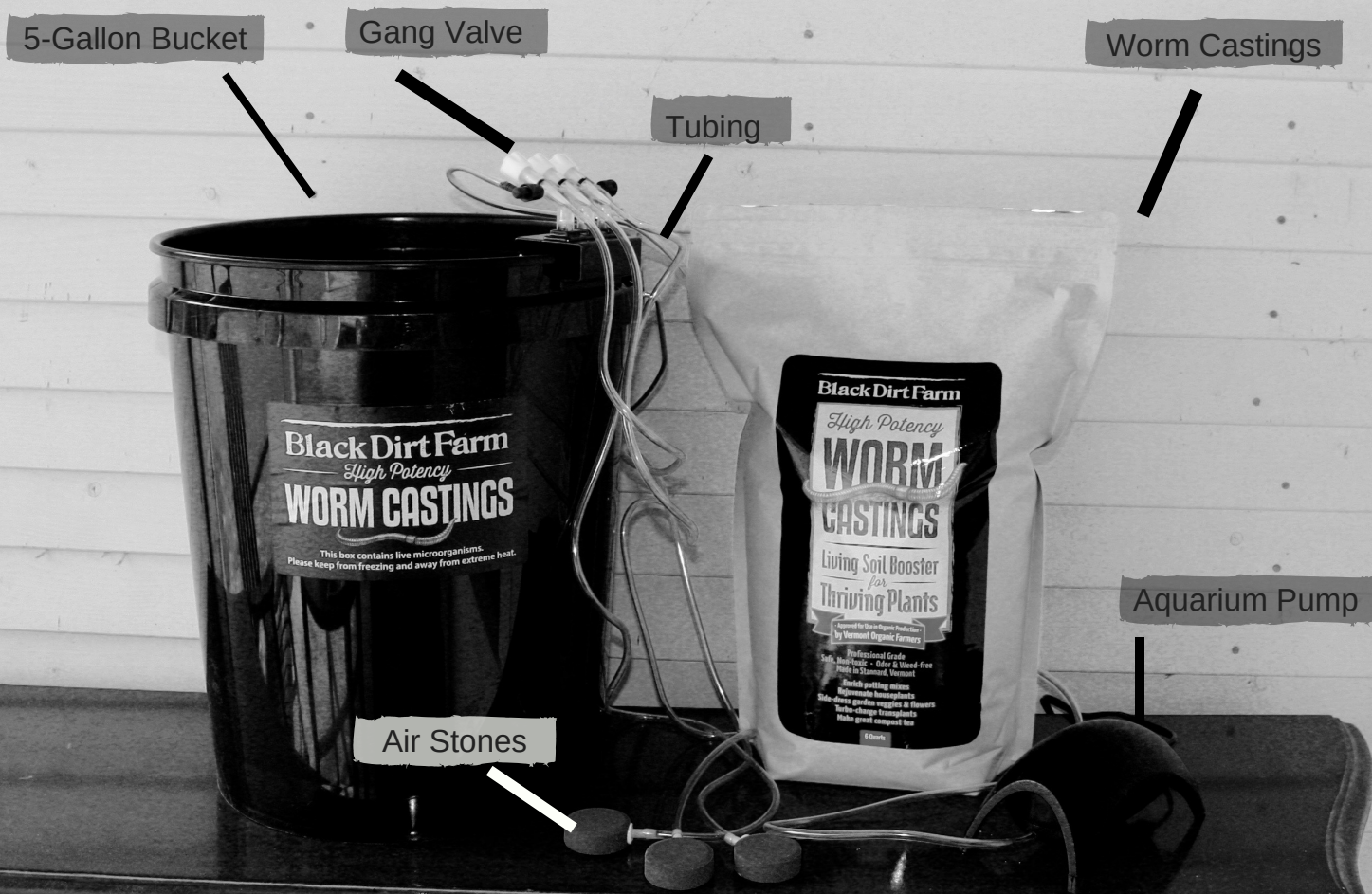
How To Assemble Your Compost Tea Brewer

MATERIALS INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

- Black Dirt Farm High Potency Worm Castings
- 5-gallon bucket
- Aquarium pump
- Three air stones
- A gang valve
- Tubing

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut 3 pieces of tubing to 25 inches in length. Attach one end of the tubing to a port on the gang valve, and plug an air stone into the other end. Do this for each of the three pieces of tubing.
2. Connect the gang valve to the pump by cutting a piece of tubing to 30 inches in length. Attach one end to the main port on the gang valve, and one end to the pump.
3. Plug the pump into an electrical outlet.





Large Batch Compost Tea

(100 gallons)

Important Note: Your castings or compost purity is very important. BDF builds compost recipes and manages composting and vermicomposting to inactivate pathogens while growing out robust populations of beneficial organisms. Brewing with poor quality inputs can lead to the proliferation of pathogens. If you can't use BDF products, be sure to select a high-quality product.

Finished tea can have soluble sources of fertility (ex. fish emulsion) and soluble mycorrhizae added before application to achieve additional goals and incorporate it into your organic fertigation system. Nothing should be added that is detrimental to biology (such as fungicides or synthetic fertilizers) or that will significantly alter pH.

Basic Ingredients:

- 100 Gallons of water (non-chlorinated)*
- 1 Gallon of Black Dirt Farm High Potency Worm Castings (ideally, Tea Grade)
- 64 oz of unsulphured molasses

Optional Ingredients:

- 1 gallon ProGrow (for added fertility)
- 5 gallon bucket of comfrey (dried best, fresh OK)
- 5 gallon bucket of horsetail (dried best, fresh OK)
- Fish and/or kelp (as indicated on bottle)
- Oats (for fungal growth)

*Water: If your tap water is chlorinated, you will need to remove the chlorine or it will kill the organisms you are trying to grow. Fill a bucket with water and leave it out overnight. Place the air stones in the water and turn on the pump for an hour to off-gas the chlorine.

Materials Needed:

- large container (tank, trough, etc.)
- Commercial grade Air Pump w/3000GPH capacity
- 12 mount metal gang valve
- tubing
- (8) 3" air stones

BREWING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add chlorine-free water to your brew container and add molasses. Stir until in solution.
2. Add Worm Castings and give the mixture a vigorous stir. Position air stones at the bottom of the container underneath the Worm Castings. Turn on the pump.
3. Aerate for 48-72 hours in a warm room. Stir the mixture a few times daily, repositioning the air stones afterwards to ensure they are well placed.
4. Brew for no longer than 72 hours. Turn off the pump, and let the sediment settle for 20 minutes.
5. If applying to foliage or through a sprayer, filter through pantyhose or a fine sieve.
6. Dilute 1:1 with non-chlorinated water and use immediately.