

How to Make a Weed Tea Fertilizer

Materials Required:

Weeds

Water

Two large buckets or containers (plastic preferred).

Filtration device (wire mesh, seed tray, etc) to remove seeds and excess plant matter when pouring into second bucket.

1. Gather weeds in the garden: invasives, natives, grasses that you do not want there.
2. Fill large bucket mostly full with weeds.
3. Submerge weeds in water to the brim of the bucket. Make sure all of the weeds are submerged.
4. Stir every couple of days for two weeks (this ensures that oxygen is made available to bacteria that are breaking down the vegetation).
5. After two weeks all weed matter should be dead. Now it is time to filter!
6. Using a seed tray (tray with small holes in the bottom, and/or wire mesh, pour weed tea bucket through the filtration device into another empty bucket. Be sure that weeds and seeds are caught during this process. Strain again if debris is still in the transferred bucket.
7. Finally, you have your weed tea! This tea is very strong, so it should be diluted one part tea to ten parts water before applying to the garden. This is very important, as the large amount of nitrogen from the compost tea can burn the plants. Compost tea essentially leaches out nitrogen and other fertilizing qualities from organic matter, so an excessive concentration will burn the plants. The resulting mixture has a great deal of nutrients and makes an excellent fertilizer.
8. Note that the impact of compost tea is short-lived, as the liquid is quickly absorbed into the root structure of the plants. In order to get the best fertilizing result, integrate compost tea into a system of long-term soil-building practices.