

# Maxi Container's Compost Tea Kit Information

Kit should include:

- 5-gallon Black Plastic Re-grind Bucket with Lid
  - 4 ft. of Vinyl Tubing with Weight (Nut) attached
  - Organic Molasses
  - Organic Kelp Emulsion
  - 32 Vitamin-C Tablets
  - Aquarium Air Pump
  - Brass Spigot with 2 Screws
  - Waterproof Silicone Caulk
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The following is an informative guide covering how to make compost tea, why you should make compost tea, and how to apply compost tea to your garden.

*Source Text: beginner-gardening.com*

## Compost Tea Recipe

- 2 tablespoons of molasses because molasses contains several different kinds of sugars,
- 2 tablespoons of kelp emulsion for the micronutrients (seaweed and fish emulsion can also be used). Each give slightly different results and some are better for different plants, so study up on what is in your garden, figure out what will react better for you. You received dry Organic Kelp that is a good Organic Fertilizer and will do the trick to get you started, it is a good all around emulsion. In the future you can mix it up once you figure out what works best on your plants.
- 2 500 mg. Vitamin C tablets for the bacteria (when you run out of these if you can simply use lemon juice, citric acid is the goal here).

## Multiple Applications

Compost Tea is a safe and effective way to work in your garden - safe for your family and your pets.

Often we don't have enough compost to spread it an inch deep across our properties. Brewing the tea - increasing the numbers of beneficial microorganisms - is one way to maximize those we do have.

And finally, on the home scale making compost tea can be as simple or as complicated as you want to make it. Aquarium air pumps work fine for most of us. A 5-gallon plastic bucket will brew a fine batch of tea.

## Simple Equipment

Our objective is to make aerobic tea (one made with oxygen) rather than anaerobic tea (one made without oxygen). Those made without oxygen are pretty much just stagnant water without any good microorganisms left alive (the good guys need oxygen to live).

This means we take a 5-gallon plastic pail - put an aquarium pump beside it and run the plastic hose into the bottom of the pail. We weight the hose down with a big nut so it doesn't rise to the top of the pail. We do not use an aquarium stone to break up the air into tiny bubbles. We want big, powerful bubbles so do not use a stone. Besides, they plug up pretty quickly with algae and other bacteria that attack them.

## Making Compost Tea

Normally you would take one small shovel of compost (about 3 big handfuls) and use a mesh bag (similar to brewing traditional tea) but since you purchased a Compost Tumbler you have the advantaged of just installing your spigot (backwards) on the bottom of you Tumbler and running water through it when it's ripe.

**Please refer to the attached installation instructions for questions about installing the spigot to your Compost Tumbler.**

If you're using municipal chlorinated water, you have to eliminate the chlorine. (Chlorine kills microorganisms.) You can do this by letting the water sit for 24 hours or you can visit an aquarium pet store and get some water treatment tabs that do the same thing.

In either case, leave the bubbler going to help outgas the chlorine.

## Food

It helps if you add "food" to feed the bacteria and fungi. With no food in the water, they will quickly die.

Add food - let the mix bubble for 12-24 hours and then apply immediately. Do not let it sit around or the microorganisms die off and you wind up with anaerobic compost tea, which is no good.

Make the tea outside so that the microorganisms produced are the same ones needed in the garden. Cool weather will require organisms that thrive in cool weather and you can repeat the tea making when the weather warms up to produce organisms for warmer weather.

## Spreading the Compost Tea

Spreading the compost tea is also very easy in the home garden. You can use either a watering can or a regular backpack sprayer.

Do NOT use a sprayer that has been used for chemical sprays. It will kill the bacteria and fungi.

Even if you rinse it out, there is generally a residue left that makes it useless for organic spraying.

Spray or pour compost tea everywhere.

Get it on plant leaves, on lawns, on vegetable gardens; wherever it lands, the organisms that will survive in those conditions will find food and will begin to do their job (eating the bad guys).

In a small size garden, use a watering can.

When applying it on the lawn, use a hand or backpack sprayer without the fine nozzle.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email us [sales@maxicontainer.com](mailto:sales@maxicontainer.com)

You have enough ingredients to make one batch of compost tea a week for four months, when it is time to re-order the contents of you Compost Tea Kit, visit our website [www.maxicontainer.com](http://www.maxicontainer.com)