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Homemade Liquid Fertilizer Recipes

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How To Make Homemade Liquid Fertilizers

In general, there are 4 steps to making easy liquid fertilizers at home:

1. Place materials into a lidded bucket.
2. Cover material with water and place on the lid.
3. Stir a couple of times a week, replacing the lid after stirring.
4. After 4 weeks, use 1 cup of the liquid in a full watering can of water and use in the garden.

You are concerned about mosquitoes in the water, you can use the mosquito donuts in the bucket.

Leaving the fertilizer and plant matter in the bucket longer than 4 weeks is ok, it might smell stronger however.

You can pour the water mixture through an old cheese cloth or netting to remove large particles and prevent the rose of your watering can from getting clogged.

Using non-chlorinated water is best. Allow potable or drinking water to stand overnight before using.



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Comfrey Fertilizer



Comfrey is a medicinal herb with grows easily in most climates. It has long, deep roots which pull nutrients from deep in the soil.



It is popular with backyard permaculture designs, organic gardeners and herbalists.

Step 1

When your comfrey plant is large, cut back some of the leaves and stems from your comfrey plants.

Step 2

Roughly chop them with scissors or pruning shears and place them into the bucket.

Step 3

Cover the comfrey with water and lightly cover with the lid.

Step 4

Stir regularly and replace lid. In summer, it takes about 2 weeks for the comfrey in water to be ready to use.



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Concentrated Comfrey Fertilizer

Step 1

Puncture a container with a hole (or several holes if placing a bucket within a bucket). If using a bucket with a single hole, place up on a couple of cinder blocks or bricks and place a watering can or container below to catch the liquid which will drain out.

Step 2

Fill the bucket with comfrey leaves then weigh down with bricks. As the leaves decompose, a brown liquid will drip out into the container below.

Step 3

Store the liquid in a cool dark place. If you place the liquid in a bottle don't tighten the lids — the liquid ferments in warmer weather.

To Use

Dilute 1 part comfrey fertilizer to 15 parts water.



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Clary Sage Fertilizer



Clary sage is mostly used in the essential oil industry but makes a wonderful perennial in the herbaceous border in the garden. It fills out beautifully in summer and the immature flower spikes are unusual and attractive.



The plant has large leaves and pale purple flower spikes which are popular with bees and other native pollinators.

Step 1

When your clary sage plant is large, cut back some of the leaves and stems from your plant.

Step 2

Roughly chop up the leaves and stems with scissors or pruning shears and place them into the bucket.

Step 3

Cover the clary sage with water and cover the bucket with the lid.

Step 4

Stir regularly and replace lid.



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Seaweed Fertilizer



Seaweed contains lots of trace minerals which help to give your plants a great boost.



Kelp and seaweed fertilizers are expensive to buy but if you live near the ocean and are able to forage legally for seaweed, head to the beach after a storm, there is usually lots washed up on the beach.

Step 1

Rinse the salt water off the seaweed with fresh clean water.

Step 2

Roughly chop up the seaweed with scissors or pruning shears and place them into the bucket.

Step 3

Cover the seaweed with water and cover the bucket with the lid.

Step 4

Stir regularly and replace lid.



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Compost "Tea" Fertilizer

Step 1

Place a shovel full of well aged compost into an old pillowcase and tie the end with string.

Step 2

Add the pillowcase to a bucket and fill with water. Allow to steep for 3 weeks.

Step 3

Remove the pillowcase and allow to drip drain into the bucket. Add 1/2 cup unsulfured molasses or sugar and stir vigorously every couple of hours. You can use an old aquarium oxygenating pump and leave it pumping oxygen overnight.

Step 4

The next day, the liquid fertilizer is ready to use.

To Use

Dilute 1 cup liquid fertilizer to a watering can of water.

Unchlorinated water is best for this fertilizer as the bacteria will remain active.



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Gardener's Revenge Fertilizer



This recipe uses all those pesky weeds from your garden.

Be sure to use those which have not been treated with any pesticides.



Step 1

Fill your bucket with at least 1/2 way with weeds. I fill a 5 gallon bucket all the way with a variety of weeds including foxtail grass, fat hen, pig weed, couch grass, bindweed and some unknown weeds which sprout up over and over again. I add in everything, roots, flowers, leaves etc.

Step 2

Cover the weeds with water, stir and place the lid on the bucket.

Step 3

Stir regularly and leave to break down for at least 6 weeks.



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Chicken Manure Fertilizer



If you are lucky enough to have backyard chickens, you will already know that they poop a lot.

Put some of the chicken coop bedding to one side and compost it separately and allow it to age.



This aged manure is what is used, fresh manure can be harmful to your plants and may contain bad bacteria.

Step 1

Compost your chicken manure first and allow to age for 6 months to a year.

Step 2

Place a shovel full of this composted manure in an old pillowcase and tie the pillowcase with some string and add into a bucket.

Step 3

Cover the pillowcase with water and allow to steep for 3 weeks.



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Manure "Tea" Fertilizer

Step 1

Place a shovel full of well aged manure into an old pillowcase and tie the end with string.

Step 2

Add the pillowcase to a bucket and fill with water. Allow to steep for 3 weeks.

Step 3

Remove the pillowcase and allow to drip drain into the bucket. Add 1/2 cup unsulfured molasses or sugar and stir vigorously every couple of hours. You can use an old aquarium oxygenating pump and leave it pumping oxygen overnight.

Step 4

The next day, the liquid fertilizer is ready to use.

To Use

Dilute 1 cup liquid fertilizer to a watering can of water.

Unchlorinated water is best for this fertilizer as the bacteria will remain active.



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Fish Fertilizer



One of the smelliest homemade fertilizers but great for high nitrogen needing crops like corn or leafy greens.

You can use fish skins, guts, bones, heads etc to make this, you don't need whole, fresh fish.



Step 1

Place the fish into an old pillowcase about 1/4 to 1/2 the way full. Tie the opening shut with string and place into a bucket.

Step 2

Cover with water and allow to steep for 3 weeks.

Step 3

Cover the pillowcase with water and allow to steep for 3 weeks.

To Use

Dilute 1/2 cup of liquid fertilizer to a watering can of water.



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Worm "Tea" Tonic

Step 1

Place a shovel full of worm castings into an old pillowcase and tie the end with string.

Step 2

Add the pillowcase to a bucket and fill with water. Allow to steep for 3 weeks.

Step 3

Remove the pillowcase and allow to drip drain into the bucket. Add 1/2 cup unsulfured molasses or sugar and stir vigorously every couple of hours. You can use an old aquarium oxygenating pump and leave it pumping oxygen overnight.

Step 4

The next day, the liquid fertilizer is ready to use.

To Use

Dilute 1 cup liquid fertilizer to a watering can of water.

Unchlorinated water is best for this fertilizer as the bacteria will remain active.



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Bokashi Juice Fertilizer



Bokashi composting is a fermentation pre-treatment used on items which generally can't go into a regular compost pile like fish, meat, dairy, cooked foods and bones.



The fermentation process makes water and a slightly acidic, concentrated plant fertilizer which is drained off and used in the garden.

Acid loving berries and plants benefit from this liquid fertilizer.

Step 1

Drain about 1 cup of the Bokashi juice from the bin.

Step 2

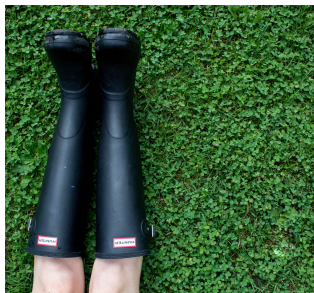
Place into a watering can filled with unchlorinated water.



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Grass Clipping Fertilizer



Cutting the grass provides mulch and green compost materials for your compost pile but it was also be used to make a fertilizer which is high in nitrogen and a great way to boost corn and leafy greens.



Use only untreated grass clippings which have not been exposed to pesticides and avoid using grass which your pets go potty on.

Step 1

Fill a bucket at least 1/2 way with fresh cut grass clippings.

Step 2

Fill the bucket with water and cover with a lid.

Step 3

Allow to sit for 4 weeks, stirring occasionally.

Step 4

Strain through a mesh or old cloth before using in the watering can.



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