**Compost Tea/ Worm Castings Tea**

“A good batch of compost tea can be a miracle worker when it comes to fulfilling your organic gardening goals. It’s a microbial inoculant to improve your soil food web, broad-spectrum organic fertilizer to foliar feed your plants, and even pest control (although it can’t legally be marketed for controlling pests).” Quoted from the Smiling Gardener

Recipe:

Use about two cups of well aged compost or worm castings in a mesh bag in a 5 gallon bucket of water. (Rain water is the best.) If using city water, let it sit for a day before starting the tea.

Add 1 TBSP unsulfured blackstrap molasses, (to feed the microbes), 1 TBSP cup fish emulsion and 1 TBSP liquid kelp.

Low tech. Stir often over 24 hours then use as foliar spray or soil drench. You will not get all the advantages of the tea from this method, but you will get some.

Higher tech…use 2 bubbler stones and an aquarium pump to aerate the same proportions for about 24 hours (maximum 72 hours) and use as foliar spray immediately. The top will be bubbly indicating good microbial action.

Use a knee high stocking to filter the tea when pouring into the sprayer. Four parts water to one part tea for a foliar spray.

If you have a pest or fungal infestation, spray with 100% tea.

If you cannot use it all as a foliar spray, use as a soil drench around your plants. This dramatically increases the microbial action in the soil.

You really cannot use too much compost tea. It will not burn your plants.

Throw the used compost on the garden.

**If you do not have the ability to make compost tea**, add fish emulsion and kelp to your sprinkler can and use on your plants. Use 1 TBSP per gallon every two to three weeks or if you see a plant needs a boost.