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How to Brew Worm Casting Tea

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a step by step visual representation of the process I follow when brewing worm tea. My goal is to help you save time instead of simply let you discover how to brew worm casting tea on your own. I hope you find the information helpful but am always open for ways to improve so feel free to comment.

Essential Tools

Brewing worm casting tea is technically very easy but there are a couple of basic tools you will need to get started.

1: A Dual Port Aquarium Pump

The pump on the right was purchased from Walmart for about \$12. The hose and air stones were included.



2: A 2 or 5 Gallon Plastic Bucket

My bucket on the right is a 2 gallon and as you can see, is rather well used. The only rule of the road when picking your bucket is to make sure it is free of caustic materials that could harm your trees, plants or shrubs. A bucket that is considered "Food Grade" is ideal and many times can be picked up for free at ice-cream shops and other local businesses.



Getting Started

So let's get started putting all the components together.

1: Aerating your Water

If you're using tap water, it's important to remove as much of the chlorine as possible. Chlorine kills the bacteria and fungus. Either of the following options will accomplish this for you:

- Fill your bucket with 2 gallons of water and let it stand for 24-48 hours (48 is best) ..or
- Place the two hoses with the stones from the Aquarium pump in the water, turn on the pump and let the pump aerate the water for 24 hours. This helps ensure most if not all the chlorine is removed. (My preference)



2: Pre-Mixing the Molasses

Many of you will understand that when you place a tablespoon of molasses in water, it sinks to the bottom in a clump. My solution?

- Dip a bit of water from the water bucket into a small plastic cup or container
- Pour 1 tablespoon of molasses from the 2 ounce bottle in the worm casting kit and stir it into the water of the small container.



The picture on the right shows my container after mixing the tablespoon of molasses. The bucket with aerating water is in the background.

The Brewing Process

By now, the basic activities should have been accomplished ,such as:

- Aerating your water for 24 hours
- Dissolving the molasses in water

1: Adding Ingredients

- Add the molasses mixture to the water in the brewing bucket as shown in “A”
- Add 1 tablespoon of Liquid Kelp from the 2 ounce bottle in the kit as shown in “B”
- Tie the strings from the muslin worm castings bag to the bucket handle as shown in “C”
- Place the worm castings tea bag in the water bucket as shown in “D”

2: The Brewing Process has started !!



THE BREWING PROCESS

Tips and Tricks

Everyone develops their own preferences when it comes to producing worm casting tea. Just to supply some ideas, I thought I would share a few of mine.

1: Squeeze the Worm Casting Bag

- I do this several times during the brewing process to help involve the castings within the interior of the bag.
- I adjust the pump hoses so that at least one stone is positioned underneath the tea bag.

2: How do you know when you're done ?

- I let the full 24 hour brewing process run its course. The bubbles in the bucket are the sign that the bacteria and fungus are feeding and at their peak bloom.
- Don't be concerned if the bubbles change in density while brewing. That's normal and will occur when disrupting the tea as in reaching into the water bucket to squeeze the tea bag.
- When you turn the pump off, the bubbles will go away. Time to either use the worm tea as a drench or put in a sprayer to use in a foliar application.
- Keep in mind that if using worm casting tea is a method of feeding that you like, the brewing and application should occur every two weeks during the growing season.



NOTE: DO NOT DISCARD the used worm castings in the tea bag !! Use them as a top dressing or incorporate into the soil around your plants. The tea bag is reusable as well.

Please contact me thru ETSY or my website pureearthfarms.com, if you have any questions. We're here to help.