

HOW TO MAKE AND APPLY A LIQUID COMPOST EXTRACT from a finished fungal-rich solid compost

Courtesy of the Mosca-Hooper Conservation District, Alamosa County, Colorado, USA, Nov. 13, 2021

Materials

- 1) Three pounds (1.5 kg) of solid, live fungal-based compost - to make ten gallons of extract**
Ten gallons of extract is enough to treat one acre! It won't harm the soil or plants if you use more.
- 2) Three, clean, five-gallon buckets**
- 3) Ten gallons of clean water poured into two of the five-gallon buckets**
If the water is chlorinated, it will kill microorganisms. Leave chlorinated water open to air overnight.
- 4) Stir stick or hand drill with paint stirrer attached**
- 5) Coarse linen or cheese cloth, enough to make two to four layers on top of a five-gallon bucket**
Compost extract is filtered through the cloth so that particles won't clog the sprayer-applicator.
- 6) Hand-held or backpack-style pump liquid sprayer-applicator, two-to-four-gallon capacity**
An inexpensive manual pump sprayer should be adequate for small acreage.

Methods

- 1) Evenly divide the solid compost into each of the two, five-gallon buckets of water.**
- 2) With the stir stick or paint stirrer, mix the solid compost in the water, for two to three minutes.**
- 3) Secure the cloth over the empty five-gallon bucket and slowly pour the mixture through the cloth.**
The filtered compost extract should look like weak, cloudy tea without particles. Repeat as needed.
- 4). Fill the pump sprayer-applicator with the filtered compost extract. Refill the sprayer as needed.**
- 5) Apply the compost extract to the soil using the sprayer.**
A light application is sufficient; ten gallons per acre.
The compost extract should be applied within one day, to ensure viability of the microorganisms.
- 6) Immediately after applying the extract, water the ground thoroughly.**
Water or rainwater will incorporate the live microorganisms into the soil, where they can multiply.

See a video presentation of compost extract preparation and application at:

<https://youtu.be/CaKoAhannMA>

To purchase fungal-based compost, contact the Mosca-Hooper Conservation District.

<https://mhcd.colorado.gov>

Or, make your own fungal-based compost with a Johnson-Su "bioreactor."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxUGk161Ly8>