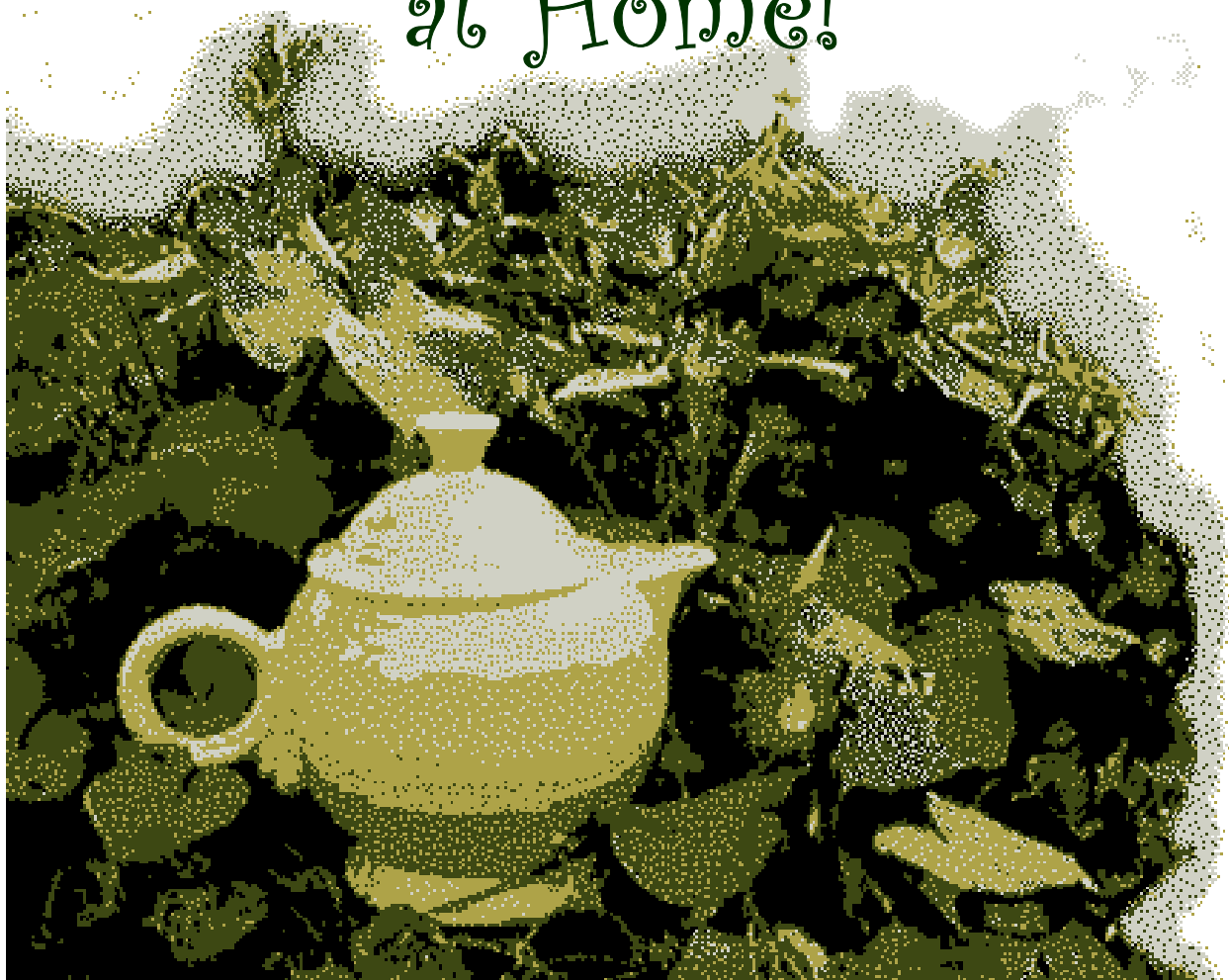


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Make Your Own  
Brewer  
and Brew Compost Tea  
at Home!



**Mary J. Tynes**

# **Make Your Own Brewer and Brew Compost Tea at Home!**

First Edition

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## Introduction

### Can't I Just Use Compost?

Compost is organic matter -- leaves, grass clippings, manure, etc. -- that has been broken down by organisms to create a nutrient-rich material which looks like rich, healthy soil. In fact, incorporating compost into soil is the most important step when improving soil. A soil which has adequate compost will have better water absorption, retention, and drainage; improved soil structure and tilth; a steady supply of plant-available nutrients; and a more balanced pH. (More information on compost benefits at [www.mastercomposter.com/purpose/](http://www.mastercomposter.com/purpose/) )

For gardeners who replant every year, or homeowners creating a new landscape, compost can be mixed into the soil before planting. But once vegetation has been planted, root zones should remain undisturbed. Compost may be added as a top-dressing on existing landscapes and lawns. Top-dressed organic matter will be pulled into the soil by soil organisms and rain will wash nutrients into the soil.

### Rudimentary Compost Tea Method

Is there a quicker way to add nutrients to the root zones of established landscapes and lawns? Yes! Gardeners learned ages ago to make “compost tea” and use this liquid to water their lawns and gardens.

Today, many continue to use this now-obsolete “compost tea” method: A burlap bag is filled with compost and submerged in a container of water. The bag is agitated periodically over the next few days. As nutrients leach out of the compost, the water turns a light amber color, much like the color of a weak tea. The nutrient-rich “compost tea” is then used to water established plants.

### Beneficial Microorganisms are Drowned in Rudimentary Method Tea

Watering with compost tea created by the Rudimentary Method does indeed provide plant-available nutrients to root zones. But tea made this way does not include beneficial microorganisms which were originally living in the solid compost.

Beneficial microorganisms which thrive in compost are aerobic, that is, they require air to breathe. Unfortunately, organisms drown as compost steeps in the Rudimentary Method because the organisms are under water and adequate oxygen is unavailable to them. *Nutrients* can survive an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment, but most *beneficial organisms* can not.

## **Innovation in the Brewing of Compost Tea: Aeration**

Large-scale producers of compost tea have found that if the brew remains aerated, compost microorganisms continue to thrive. The resulting compost tea is far more valuable than non-aerated tea because it provides disease protection in addition to nutrients.

When added to soil as a drench, beneficial organisms decompose organic matter within the soil which

1. adds to the quantity of plant-available nutrients,
2. controls the proliferation of harmful organisms, and
3. improves soil structure.

This healthy soil environment helps plant roots resist disease and insect attack.

Research shows that aerated compost tea which is used as a foliar spray can not only be used to supply additional nutrients to plants, but may also be used to suppress plant diseases and help destroy toxins. When the tea is sprayed onto the plant, beneficial organisms live on the leaf's surface ready to attack pathogenic species. Not only do they act against pathogens currently residing on the plant, but they provide an on-going "living shield". Foliar pathogens must penetrate this competitive environment before they harm your plants. Harmful bacteria, fungus and air-borne pathogens find this line of defense difficult to penetrate.

## **A Brewer Designed for Home Gardeners**

As evidence mounts regarding the benefits of creating compost tea in an aerated environment, home gardeners are looking for an inexpensive way to aerate their brewing process. **Make Your Own Brewer and Brew Compost Tea at Home** provides instructions for constructing an aerated brewer from a 5-gallon (19 liter) bucket and less than US\$15 worth of new components. It provides detailed explanations of how this process works and what to look for as you choose your components. The book will lead you through the selection of pile inputs and the process of building a pile which will yield compost which is best suited for brewing tea. The book then discusses how to brew the tea and how to apply it.

This book is written for the gardener who is new to aerated compost tea. Instructions are simple and easy to follow.

### **eBook Format**

A useful feature of this eBook is embedded Shortcuts. If a topic begins with a Shortcut box like the one below, you may read the text in the box to get the gist of the section. Then click on the link to jump to the next section. For instance, if you want to know the best shape container to use but don't care why it is best, read the paragraph in the box and click the underlined words "click here" to move to the next heading. [This Shortcut box is for illustrative purposes and does not forward you to another page.]

## Shortcut !!!

Two 5-gallon (19 liter) containers are required. A cylindrical bucket is used for brewing the compost tea. The second container may be of any shape. Both containers should be leak-proof and hold a minimum of 5 gallons each.

To skip the details, [click here](#)

**Tip:** To get a quick overview of the brewer construction and compost tea brewing processes, just jump through the shortcuts. Once you understand the overall process, return to the book's beginning and read the details.

### **Note**

This book is written for the home gardener and is not for large-scale or commercial purposes. Compost tea is to be used as a plant drench or foliar spray and is not for human consumption.

Build a brewer with a bucket and less than  
\$15 worth of components,  
and make aerated compost tea.

Excerpt from:

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Tea at Home!

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