

WEED TEA

Weed Tea is a simple & cheap way of making a liquid fertiliser. Collect some weeds - Dock & Dandelion are great. Put it in a 20L bucket of water & soak for about 2 weeks stirring occasionally. It will smell but don't worry, this is a good thing. Dilute 1 parts liquid to 10 parts water and viola you have a liquid fertiliser!

WHAT IS SOIL?



Soil is essentially broken down rock and organic matter mixed together. Depending where you live & how your landscape was formed will dictate whether your rock was broken down into sand, silt or clay. This 'parent material' determines your soil's structure and in turn things like how well it holds or doesn't hold water & nutrients.

MICROBES

Soil is very much alive. In fact there are more living things in a teaspoon of healthy soil than there are people on the planet. These microbes are the key to healthy soil & healthy plants. If you feed your microbes, they will feed your plants so your plants can feed you!



FEEDING YOUR SOIL

A BASIC GUIDE FOR KEEPING YOUR
SOIL HEALTHY.



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WORM FARM

No fuss, no smell. Worms take your scraps and in return give you nutrient rich organic matter (castings) & a liquid fertiliser.



GREEN MANURE

A fantastic way to build soil - add in a green manure crop. Let it grow until it's just about to go to seed then chop the crop, cutting the plants at the base so as to leave the roots in the ground.

Add in some manure if you have it & cover over top with thick layer of mulch. Then sit back and microbes do their thing.



COMPOST

Compost is fresh organic matter (food scraps, freshly pulled weeds etc) mixed with carbon (anything brown and dry such as hay or dried grass clippings).

This mixture of carbon to nitrogen creates a haven for microbes that get busy breaking it all down. You can make this at home with a simple compost set up or you can buy a ready made product from a reputable garden centre or landscape yard. Compost feeds your soils microbes, improves soil structure, water retention and stores carbon in the soil.



MANURES

Horse, cow, donkey, chicken, goat...they're all great options. Adding manure will provide slow release vital nutrients and promote growth of beneficial organisms. . Aged manure is best and go easy on the poultry as it can burn the plant roots.



MULCH

Mulch is dried carbon such as hay or wood chip laid on top of the soil and does a number of important things for your garden.

1. Feeds your soil
2. Regulates Temperature of soil
3. Reduces moisture evaporation
4. Protects the soil microbes from being baked in the sun