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An Overview of the Use and Benefits of Compost Tea

Compost tea helps establish and maintain a healthy environment for vibrant plant health. It is an excellent treatment when used on a regular schedule for trees, shrubs and turf.

The compost tea is applied to turf, trees, shrubs and flowers. It can be used for both regular maintenance and new plantings. When planting, a good practice is to inject the root-ball and drench the planting hole before backfilling. This markedly decreases the transplant shock and will get the plant off to a great start.

As an overview, the idea is based upon the fact that plants and soils have a very symbiotic relationship with microbes. The health, beauty, stress tolerance and disease resistance of the plants are greatly enhanced by establishing and maintaining a thriving microcosm around the root zone. When we can successfully mimic the most ideal natural conditions for a particular plant, not only does nature do our work for us, but we can achieve the highest level of plant and soil vibrancy. Most users also report large reduction in watering due to greater root mass and the water holding properties of the soil. Fungus and weed problems are greatly reduced.

High quality compost is unique in that it is a storehouse of highly beneficial, naturally occurring microorganisms. These organisms were very active during the composting process, but when the food-sources run out, they mostly all go into a state of dormancy. Good compost contains tens of thousands of species of all members of the "Soil Food Web" consisting of bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes in a "stored" state. The compost tea brewing process extracts these organisms and multiplies the microbes. Once activated and introduced to the soil, their interrelationships in the soil and on plants are responsible for nutrient cycling, disease and pest control, moisture modulation and a host of other functions. When all the members of the microscopic communities are present and working together as they would in a naturally healthy environment, our work towards healthy and beautiful landscapes become more certain, all while improving the greater environment that our efforts may impact.

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