

## David Greig's Simple VermiCompost Brew Recipe

*(I don't refer to this mixture as a tea because of the lack of an aeration system in this particular process.)*

To make this brew all you need to do is soak some vermicompost for half a day in distilled water. One can either add the vermicompost directly to the water or use some sort of holder for the vermicompost.

- Using a holder will make the process less messy, so you do not have to strain out the vermicompost from the brew to use it in a spray.
- If you are not going to use a sprayer for the brew, then you can pour the material right where you want it.

There are many recipes to be found and all are similar. I must caution people that when you make this brew, :

- Do not let it stand for more than 6 hours if it is not being stirred (to add air) as you want to avoid the mixture going anaerobic (without oxygen).
- Do not let this mixture stand for more than 12 hours and use it immediately when ready

Here is the basic vermicompost brew recipe that I use.

1. Use something to hold the vermicompost or add it directly to the distilled water.
2. Use approximately 1.5 cups of vermicompost to 1 gallon (128 ozs.) of water. (These are approximate numbers so more or less is up to you but a general ratio is 1 to 10)
3. Add the vermicompost either directly or in a holder to the water. Using a 5 gallon bucket will require 7.5 cups of vermicompost or a little less than half a bag. You could use a 1/3 of a bag of the vermicompost, and, although, it will be a weaker mixture, it will still provide nutrients and microorganism for your soil and plant. As with all recipes, the general outline for this simple steeping technique is using between 5 to 7.5 cups of vermicompost.
4. Submerge the worm compost tea bag (cheese cloth, panty hose, etc.) in a bucket of water.
5. Let it for between 6 to 12 hours and stir it occasionally. You can let it steep overnight and in the morning the water should be light brown. When watering, it is important that you soil be already moist as you want this brew to get down to the root zone. Dry soil will not permit water to infiltrate down to the root zone and the reasons for this is another topic
6. Because the beneficial microbes in the worm compost tea will start to die off, water your garden immediately after steeping or first thing in the morning for best results. As with any watering try to avoid the sunniest or hottest part of the day
7. When finished watering, pour or remove the vermicompost holder from the bucket, cut it open and add the worm compost either to your garden, your worm compost bin, or your compost pile.

You can use this brew to:

- Water your garden as you normally would
- Water your houseplants
- Use the worm compost tea to water seedlings or baby plants
- Cover a whole plant with worm compost tea including the leaves.

Many people believe that the beneficial microbes in worm tea help protect plants from diseases.

A sprayer or spray bottle works well. Be sure to strain the worm compost tea before adding it to the spray bottle.