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To be self-sufficient in bio-inputs.

DATE
21/10/2026

Aerated compost tea

Biopreparation type: Biofertilizers • Preparation method: Extract • Commercialized bio-input

INGREDIENTS

For 200 litres: 20 kg of well-matured compost (dark, smelling of forest soil, with no undecomposed scraps). 3 litres of molasses. 250 g of fish meal (or fish or shrimp scraps). 180 litres of unchlorinated water. For 20 litres: 2 kg of compost, 300 ml of molasses, 25 g of fish meal and 18 litres of water.

PREPARATION PROCESS

1) Fit an air diffuser at the bottom of a 200-litre plastic drum (a square of ½-inch PVC pipe with small holes, weighed down with a stone) connected to an aquarium pump of about 75 litres per minute. 2) Put the compost in a sound, permeable sack and close it with wire. 3) Dissolve the molasses and fish meal in 20 litres of lukewarm water. 4) Hang the sack from the rim of the drum, about 20 cm above the bottom, so the air circulates around it. 5) Add the premix and top up with unchlorinated water to 200 litres; cover with a mesh that lets air through. 6) Aeration: 24 hours non-stop, 4 hours rest, 12 hours of air, 12 hours rest, then another 24 hours of air. 7) Remove the sack, pour off the liquid without stirring up the sediment and filter it once or twice before filling the containers.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

200-litre plastic drum (not metal). Aquarium air pump and hose. ½-inch PVC pipe and elbows. Galvanized wire. Stone to weigh down the diffuser. 50 kg permeable sack. Mesh cover. Wooden stick. Strainer or cloth for filtering. Clean containers.

TIPS

Aeration must be steady: without enough air, the tea smells bad and loses quality; if so, aerate it for another 24 hours. Do not keep it more than a day: the microorganisms die quickly without oxygen; if it smells bad, return it to the compost pile. As a guide, finished tea has a pH of 6.5–7.5. Always use unchlorinated water and well-made compost: the tea is only as good as the compost. Wash the sprayer well before use.

RESULTS DESCRIPTION

A liquid compost extract, rich in aerobic microorganisms and soluble nutrients, that brings the life of the compost to the soil and leaves and improves nutrient availability.

PRODUCT OBTAINED

Dark amber, thin liquid with a pleasant smell of fresh soil.

SOURCE / REFERENCE

SADER and INIFAP (2021). Manuales prácticos para la elaboración de bioinsumos, no. 6: Té de composta (in Spanish). Technical Support Strategy, Mexican Ministry of Agriculture. — Recipe written in our own words.