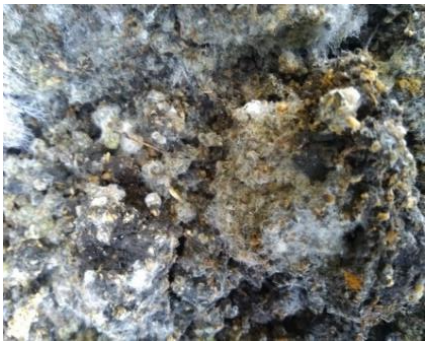
Starter ready for brewing

DIY INSTANT COMPOST TEA

Introduction

Trevor Galletly and Peter Van Beek[1]



Close up of starter

Modern farming practices have generally led to loss of soil-biology, soil carbon and their many benefits. "Compost teas", which are in fact not teas but liquids containing huge numbers of diverse living micro-organisms, are used to restore soil biology, which allows the soil to utilise and store carbon. This is good for **all** plants. However, compost teas made from hot commercial compost are not high in beneficial biology as heat kills the biology during the composting process. Hence, hot compost teas are not suitable for regenerating soils.

Dr. Elaine Ingham (Soil Food Web) and Dr. David Johnson (Johnson-Su Bioreactor Compost) have achieved excellent results in regenerating soils with high fungal compost teas using cold composting methods. Their work is well documented.

However, Soil Food Web and Johnson-Su composts are generally not commercially available. The Soil Food Web compost requires temperature control, which is often difficult to achieve, and takes several months to mature. The Johnson-Su method requires 12 months to mature.

Testing so far indicates that DIY Instant Compost Tea produces an equivalent high fungal tea which gives similarly excellent results in regenerating soils. The DIY Instant Compost Tea uses locally available inputs, is low cost, does not require specialised equipment or knowledge and produces large quantities on farm within 7 days as and when needed.

The DIY Instant Compost Tea is produced in three stages: growing a **starter**, **brewing** or multiplying the biology in aerated water with nutrients, and **application** Local soil biology for the starter is sourced from local soils that have not been farmed.

Observations so far include:

- Beneficial effects in plants and soils are seen within 100 days.
- Soil biology has spread 2 m in 100 days as observed in crop growth.
- Estimated Soybean yields 9% higher.
- Soil structural changes and improved water drainage.
- Greater soil adhering to roots.
- Reduced aphids on eggplant and reduced fruit spotting bug on papaw.
- Increased pasture growth (10 cm) and 20% higher leaf refractometer readings.
- Foliar application of the tea has reduced leaf and fruit diseases.

N.B. For full and lasting benefits, farming and grazing practices **must** be adjusted to protect and nurture the soil biology.

Factsheets and Case studies give details and instructions at: https://tinyurl.com/mvecbpm2

Further enquiries to: trevorbundy8@gmail.com

[1] Trevor Galletly, *QDA, B AgSC - 40 years in biological farming* Peter van Beek, *Dip Agr, B Ec, M Ag studies*