

Welcome Gardens! Newsletter

April 3rd/2017

LATEST NEWS!

Join us this **Friday April 7th** for our Welcome Garden's Workshop. We will learn how to make and use compost tea and natural pesticides. - how to create sprays using household items and plants like garlic! Do bring along your compost tea and pesticide recipes to share! And we will have time for everyone to ask and answer questions on the topics or other questions you may have!

When: Friday, April 7th.

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Where: at VIRCS, 3rd Floor, 637 Bay St

ULTIMATE COMPOST TEA RECIPE



5 GALLONS WATER
(UNCHLORINATED)



1 CUP
WORM CASTINGS



1/2 CUP
FISH EMULSION

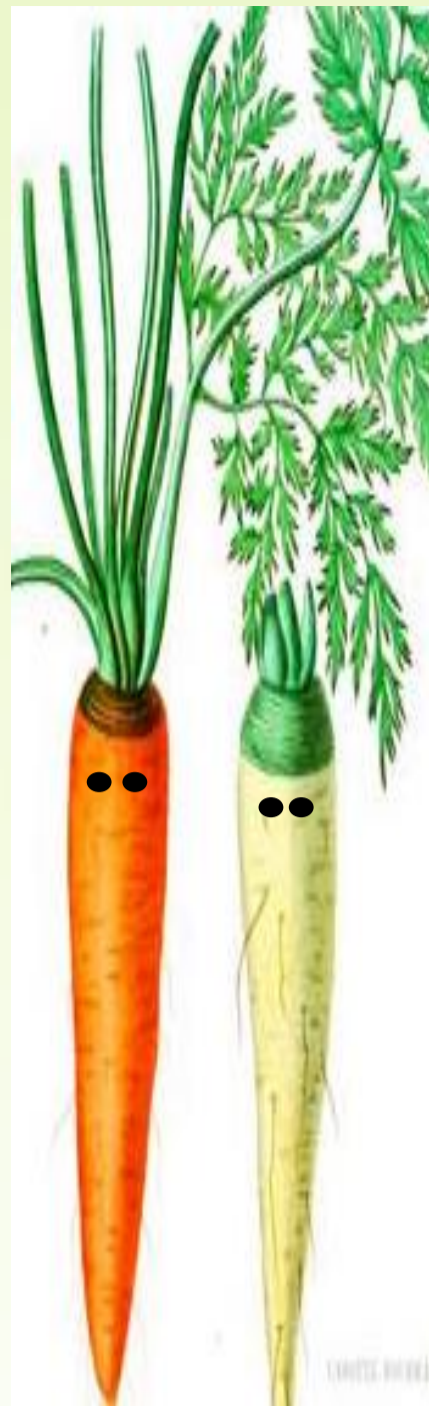


3 TBS.
HUMIC ACID



3 TBS.
MOLASSES

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What is Compost Tea?

Compost tea is a liquid fertilizer that helps to suppress plant disease and enhance biological activity which is good for your plants. It is made by soaking small amounts of biologically-active compost in water, often with other ingredients such as kelp or molasses to feed the microorganisms. Once the ingredients are mixed the compost tea needs to be aerated over a period of one to two days. The mix should be stirred to increase aeration. Once the tea is ready it is used to spray the soil or directly onto plants.

Compost is great for your plants, but compost tea is even better. Compost tea makes the benefits of compost go farther. For example:

- when sprayed on the leaves,
- compost tea helps suppress foliar diseases
- increases the amount of nutrients available to the plant
- speeds the breakdown of toxins
- increase the nutritional quality and improve the flavor of vegetables.

Vegetables prefer a more bacterial-dominated soil, whereas, trees prefer a more fungal-dominated soil. Therefore, you would want to brew compost tea that is more bacterial-dominated for your vegetables, and tea that is more fungal-dominated for your trees. However, if you apply a fungal-dominated tea to your veggies no worries. Your plant won't benefit as much as from a bacterial-dominated tea, but there is not harm.



Next Welcome Gardens! Meeting & others Garden activities happening in Victoria this week!

Growing Native Plants From Seed

When: Tuesday, April 4

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Where: Central Branch, Greater Victoria Public Library.

Organized Victoria Seed Library. Learn how to identify, collect and propagate native species from seed, and take some home. Register at gvpl.ca

Composting Basics

Learn all the basics of composting and discover which system is right for you! This workshop is **FREE**

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/free-workshop-composting-basics-tickets-30905597474>

When: Saturday, April 8th

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00

Where: Compost Education Centre. 1216 North Park Street Victoria, BC V8T 1C9

Grow your own food 101

Want to grow your own groceries but not sure where to even start? This is a workshop designed for total beginners who want to start growing their own fresh

When: Saturday, April 8th

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: Compost Education Centre. 1216 North Park Street Victoria, BC V8T 1C9

FEE: \$20 Register here

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grow-your-own-food-101-tickets-30905943509>

Do you have recipes or stories? Please share with us welcomegardens@vircs.bc.ca

For more information about times and topics, please visit VIRCS event calendar at www.vircs.bc.ca or Welcome Gardens facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vircswelcomegardens/>

Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society- VIRCS