



Aerated Castings Tea Instructions (& Kits)

" Vermicompost (Worm Castings) - Harvested Fresh For Your Order"

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“Aerated Castings Tea Instructions”

This instruction set is meant as a "quick start" guide.

I sell Aerated Tea Kits, for local pickup and delivery. There are several options.

I also sell just the castings, if you want to design & collect your own brewer equipment.

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Aerated Castings Tea, Simply Put Is:

Basically, a small amount of castings is placed in a sock/strainer/stocking - usually about 1 to 2 cups of castings to 15 litres of water.

This is suspended in a bucket of non chlorinated water.

The water is then fed oxygen and stirred, usually by using an aquarium air pump and air stone.

This multiplies the good bacteria in the “brew” – the brew can then be watered down by 5 or 10 times before application, and a result still seen.

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Why Make Aerated Castings Tea?

Basically, to make a LITTLE VC go a LONG way – also for ease of use in some applications.

One to two cups of VC may make up to 10 to 15 litres of liquid, which can then be diluted with water up to 5 or 10 times it’s volume to make application easier.

Non Aerated Castings Tea Option:

NACT is where you don't have an aquarium air pump. Use the same recipe and procedure as above. Then stir it with a paddle (a wide piece of wood works) - give it a good stir at least 2 to 3 times a day (more if you're passing by) - stir for 7 to 10 days, then use as above.

The aerated version is just quicker and probably a little better due to the increased oxygen supplied to the brew - but any tea is better than no tea.

Brewing Table: *This table shows different sized recipes to suit smaller or larger gardens.*

Brewing Rates Table - Aerated Castings Tea Kits (As Stocked)					
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Kit Name	E.g. Brewer - Size	Water In Brewer (Litres)	Amount Of Castings	Ground Drench / On Soil (Square Metres)	Foliar Application / On Leaves (Square Metres)
Starter PLUS	Bucket - 20 L	5-15	1 Cup	65	250
<i>(New Size)</i>	"	5-15	2 Cups	125	500
	"	10-15	4 Cups	250	1000
	"	15	6 Cups	400	1600
*+ Does Not Suit Bubble Pipe Aerator Available As Optional Extra. (Pump comes with airstones & air line.)					
Advanced	Small Drum - 50 L	20	2 Litres	500	2000
<i>Or 2 x S/PLUS</i> *+	"	25	2.5 Litres	625	2500
	"	30	3 Litres	800	3200
ADVANCED 15mm Bubble Pipe Aerator Available As Optional Extra. (Pump comes with airstones & air line.)					
Pro ⊥	Large Drum - 200 L	160	4 Litres	1/4 Acre	1 Acre
	"	160	16 Litres	1 Acre	4 Acres
	As req'd - 250+ L	160	32 Litres	2 Acres	8 Acres
PRO 32mm Airlift Aerator Available As Optional Extra. (Pump comes with NO aerator & NO air line / supply your own.)					
Add Catalyst If Req'd: 1-2 Tab. per 20 L. (Eg Molasses, Fish, Seaweed etc.) Observe correct withholding periods.					
It doesn't matter how much you dilute the tea to apply it - <u>castings amount to application area is what matters.</u>					
Figures for 10% tea eg 1 Litre VC to 10 Litres water. Scientists say even a 1% tea will still see some effects.					
Figures are a suggestion only. Crop kind, soil type, season, application reason & method provide variables.					
⊥ Seek help from an agronomist for best results and application sizes and strategies for large areas.					
Ground Drench: Apply the tea on the soil, feeding the roots. Foliar: Apply to leaves, feeding thru leaves & roots.					
Pro pumps do not come with the 32mm Air Lift Aerator unless you buy one as a package or as an extra.					
* Two of the Starter PLUS replaces Advanced if required / eg if you wish to upgrade later.					
+ E.g. You can't use a Bubble Pipe Aerator on the Starter PLUS - but you can if you have two of them.					
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Version 22.11.3 - Table adjusted to suit updated & new pumps 11/2022.					

Super Simple Instructions For The 20 Litre Brewer Starter Kit:

1. Use a 20 Litre bucket as the brewer for the starter kits; or a larger vessel for the other kits.
2. Put an appropriate amount of water in the brewer, leaving head room, for foaming, so it doesn't overflow.

**For the starter kit, use 5 to 15 litres of water in the brewer, per the recipe table (above.)
Dechlorinate the water, or use rainwater.**

It is best to use rain water, but you can leave town water in the brewer for 24 hours, out in the sun (not bubbling) for the chlorine to off-gas.

You can also use fish tank drops to get rid of the chlorine/chloramine – or use filtered or spring water etc.

3. Use an amount of castings according to the recipe table (above.)

The table shows different sized brews that suit a variety of garden sizes and brewer sizes.

Using the same brewer and smaller or larger amounts of castings, we can tailor a brew to suit smaller or larger gardens. You can water tea down to make it easier to apply, but apply it to the same sized garden as described in the table.

Place the castings in a sock or strainer if you prefer the liquid to be without solids.

You don't need a strainer/sock if you intend applying the tea with a watering can or direct from the bucket.

4. (If doing NON AERATED TEA, stir with a paddle twice a day for 7 days as your aeration.)

5. Run one air hose & stone into the sock/strainer before tying it up.

This ensures the castings doesn't become anaerobic and encourage bad bacteria.

6. Attach the air pump to the air line/s & stone/s. If you have them, put the check valves (anti-siphon) closest to the air pump, between the pump and the air stones.

7. Make sure the air pump is placed above the level of the top of the bucket to stop it siphoning water into your pump if the power stops. Don't rely on air line check valves.

8. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of catalyst or rock dust into the water if you prefer that as a recipe (like molasses) - or 1 to 2 cups of chopped lucerne (which is my preference.)

9. Suspend the sock/strainer from the bucket.

The handle makes a handy place to tie the string from the sock.

10. DON'T cover the bucket.

Don't put the brew or the resulting tea in the sun.

The brew may foam up or spill, so put the brewer somewhere that won't matter if that happens.

11. Aerate for 24 hours.

12. Apply immediately for best results - but use it within 24 hours.

Apply with a watering can or right from the bucket.

Do not seal the bucket holding the tea, it is a living product and needs air.

Remember - you can water down the resulting brew with de-chlorinated water to make applying it easier. Add as much water as you like, but apply the batch of tea to the appropriate sized garden per the recipe table. Adding more water is simply watering the tea in as you go.

You can also use as much as you like as often as you like - it won't burn plants.

So apply it as you like, how you like, whenever your garden needs watering, it can be with tea.

If you use a watering can with a "rose" – you may like to strain the tea further to remove solids so they don't block the rose.

If using a pump up (pressure) sprayer, keep the trigger down so you aren't building up massive pressure in the bottle, as pressure will effect the microbes. You will want to strain the liquid well if using a pressure sprayer or the fine nozzle will block up.

13. Water in the tea. Apply late in the day for best results.

As with all worm products it is a good idea to water the garden afterwards to help the tea penetrate the soil.

It's also a good idea to apply the tea in the evening so it has time to seep in before the sun comes up the next day.

14. The castings left from the process can be put back in a worm farm, compost heap or on some plants/in the garden.

Don't use the castings again to brew as there will be reduced biology left in it.

Cleaning & Care:

Wash out the brewer, tea bag, aerators and all equipment used thoroughly. Let air dry in the sun for a few hours, then store in a cool dark place.

***** Caution Re Pathogens *****

The caution is that if there are pathogens in the VC, especially from un-composted animal manure inputs, or uneaten foods, that there could be pathogens in the VC. If so, the aerating process (especially if using molasses) will also make the BAD bacteria bloom as well – more so with this mixing method as the next method uses an air pump to flood the mix with oxygen, which may benefit the good microbes more.

VC should be well aged, to the proper age as specified in the industry standard publication, Vermiculture Technologies (by Dr Clive Edwards):

- 365 days in a windrow
- 120 days in a bin/batch/wedge (common domestic worm farm)
- 60 days in a Continuous Flow Through Farm

****** CAUTION: Use On Leaves Of Plants That Are Intended For Human Consumption ******

- Do not apply on leaves of plants, or vegetables, that you're going to harvest for human consumption. Use as a ground drench only on these gardens, being careful not to get it on the leaves etc. This is a simple precaution.
- Aerated teas should not be applied to the leaves of edible plants – my recommendations is DO NOT APPLY to these AT ALL.
- If used on the above, observe a proper with holding period, research this in your own countries' best practice guidelines. But at least observe a 120 day with holding period.

***** Precautions about using molasses (or other sugary ingredients) *****

- The story is that molasses will build the colony of good AND bad bacteria, more so if not using a forced air aerating system.
- Supposedly the air pump flooding the tea with oxygen favors the good bacteria.
- I've not heard of any problems, but this is the cautionary side of me, telling you what I've heard.
- I also hear this is why Dr Elaine Ingham (from www.soilfoodweb.com) no longer advises using molasses at all.

Thanks for buying your kit from me. Good luck and happy gardening !!!

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More Info

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