



Guidelines for making enriched organic humus “tea” for your soil or compost using Oregon Bull Organic Aged Humus, aka the *Bud Kicker!*

- OB Tea is intended for use on plants, and not intended for human consumption. Do not drink OB Tea.
- OB Tea is a superb addition throughout the growing season, but particularly beneficial in the weeks leading up to harvest.
- A great starting point for your 1st batch of OB Tea is a 1:10 ratio, e.g. mix one gallon Oregon Bull to ten gallons unchlorinated water*. At our garden, we’ve been making and using small batches, mixing 1/3 gallon (5+ cups) of Oregon Bull with three gallons of water* in a 5-gallon bucket; this leaves plenty of room at the top to stir without spilling.
**distilled, well or rain water is great; tap water left out for 24 hours (to allow chlorine to dissipate) should work fine.*
- A tablespoon or two of unsulfured molasses is a nice addition to give the aerobes an extra metabolic boost. Plan on “Brewing” your batch for 18-24 hours.
- Keep the brew oxygenated. Tea aficionados might invest in an inexpensive aquarium bubbler. In lieu, you can stir your brewing tea vigorously every 4-6 hours, with the intent to aerate as well as mix; Ample dissolved oxygen is important, and encourages good microbial activity, and discourages less desirable anaerobic microbes.
- Keep the tea batch indoors and close to room temp. It may be desirable to cover the bucket with a piece “breathable” fabric to reduce contamination; cheesecloth works great for this and can be used to strain the finished brew.
- Strain through cheesecloth when tea is ready (up to 36 hours).
- Use the finished tea on your actively growing plants; tea can be used as-is or diluted with unchlorinated water. Add the leftover strained organic material to the garden or compost pile.
- ***How much should you use when applying to your plants?*** We recommend irrigating with an amount of finished tea equivalent to the amount of water you might typically use when watering. Keeping your soil from getting too wet or too dry is always important. An inexpensive moisture meter can be a valuable tool in your gardening tool kit.
- ***How often should you apply humus tea to growing plants?*** In our ongoing trials, we apply humus tea once every two weeks, with very good results. Some experimentation with frequency and dilution rates may help to determine what is best for your plants. Be sure to use fresh tea, as tea that has been stored for a while may lose potency, or may harbor anaerobic microbes.