

SEAWEED TEA

How to make it:

You can make it in any plastic container that has a fitted lid.

It's best to collect the seaweed in the winter after a storm has blown it up onto a beach above the tide line.

Fill the container 2/3 full, first shaking off the sand and pebbles.

Then add water to the top of the container and seal with lid.

Leave it to sit for 2-3 months.

When it smells rotten or looks fermented, you know it's ready for use. The "tea" will be a deep brown colour.

Strain the "tea" into a bucket and then save it into gallon milk jugs.

You can add water to the seaweed container again to the same level and brew a second batch.

It will take a shorter time for the "tea to brew" this time, especially if the weather is warmer.

You will know the seaweed is depleted when the "tea" is a pale golden colour instead of brown.

How to use it:

Seaweed tea can be used full strength on established plants. If you are using it to feed seedlings it should be diluted, perhaps 1:1 with water.

This tea contains micronutrients, it is rich in minerals and hormones that stimulate growth. It will not burn and can be used safely with all vegetables and flowers as often as needed.

What to do with it when it's finished:

When the seaweed is depleted and no longer useful for making tea, it can be added to the compost or used as mulch around plants.

Note: Seaweed T. can be mixed with Comfrey T. in a 2 gal. watering can. Make a solution of 1/2gallon S.W. Tea, 2" of Comfrey T., fill remainder of watering can with water. This makes a balanced, enriching fertilizer!

COMFREY and BORAGE TEA

COMFREY

Comfrey has a long tap root that draws macro and micro nutrients up into its leaves, making them a rich source of nutrients. They are particularly rich in: **nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium, and magnesium.**

The leaves can be used for:

- making fertilizer
- adding to compost to enrich it
- mulching around plants to feed them
- comfrey tea spray can help prevent powdery mildew

To make fertilizer: soak chopped leaves in water in a covered bucket for 3-4 weeks, stir every 3-4 days. The finished tea should have a strong odour and be deep green in colour when stirred.

Dilute the tea with water in a ratio of about 1:4 or 8, (tea to water), depending on how concentrated you have made the mixture.

Don't put this solution on young plants as it will burn them, best used on plants as they blossom or are about to form fruit.

After pouring off the tea, put the sludge (leaves) into the compost.

BORAGE

Borage is a nitrogen fixer, meaning it stores nitrogen in its root nodules. It also has leaves that are rich in **potassium, calcium and magnesium**

Make fertilizer: pick off the largest leaves to fill a bucket with lid and cover them with water. Stir the mixture every 3-4 days.

Wait 3-4 weeks, pour off the liquid, dilute it with fresh water in a ratio of 1:10 (tea:water)

Feed your plants weekly with this solution.

Add the spent leaves to the compost.

Other plants that can be used for fertilizer following these guidelines...

Dandelions, nettle, yarrow, grass clippings, weeds.