

## **Actively Aerated Compost Tea (AACT)**

Compost tea is a liquid concentrate containing all the beneficial microbial components that compost is famous for. These living beneficial microbes are the biology that drives the *soil food web* in a healthy functioning soil. The soil food web is responsible for:

1. nutrient cycling - the break down and reuse of organic sources of plant nutrition, and their holding capacity in the soil;
2. improved soil structure - through the formation of soil aggregates;
3. increased porosity - resulting in better aeration and water retention;
4. the degradation of soil pollutants and pH buffering;

Inorganic (chemical) fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and mechanical compaction damage these beneficial soil microbes and reduce or delete the benefits of a healthy soil food web. This breakdown of microbial functioning can be the cause of poor plant growth and color, low resistance to garden pests and pathogens and decreased fruit and vegetable production. Without the re-introduction of the beneficial microbes found in well made compost, garden maintenance becomes a dependant cycle of chemical inputs and controls, spreading pesticide pollution by air and leaching through the soil to pollute our ground water, creeks and bay waters.

The tea made here at Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc is specifically called **Actively Aerated Compost Tea (AACT)** in reference to the careful brewing process that maintains oxygen levels necessary for aerobic functioning. AACT is composed of living biology and is therefore very sensitive to heat, sunlight and oxygen loss and should be used quickly (within 2 – 3 hours) and protected until application. If you detect “bad” or rotten smells, do not use the tea, as the biology has been damaged.

AACT can be used full strength or diluted up to 1:4, however if chloramine-treated city water is used for dilution, the water should be pre-treated using standard aquarium procedures. Application can be made manually with a watering can to the soil or by any sprayer to leaf surfaces as well.

Tea brewing & compost production are under the direction of Alane Weber, Certified Advisor for the Soil Foodweb, Inc ([www.soilfoodweb.com](http://www.soilfoodweb.com)) and is regularly tested for microbial health and diversity. Test results are available upon request.