

## Which Plants?

### Which plants benefit from Actively Aerated Compost Tea?

We've never met a plant that didn't appreciate compost tea. Try it on:

- \*Vegetables & herbs
- \* Trees & shrubs
- \* Perennial beds
- \* Fruiting plants
- \* Annual flowers
- \* Roses
- \* Houseplants
- \* Fairy Gardens

It works wonders!  
Try and see!



Open Year-Round  
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
80918 \* 574-8058

[www.phelangardens.com](http://www.phelangardens.com)

- \*local gardening information
- \*upcoming classes & events
- \*what's new at Phelan Gardens

### Connect With Us!

Our **monthly newsletter** is offered via **e-mail**. Sign up in-store or on our website to receive special offers, class & event updates and seasonal gardening tips.

**Follow Us On Social Media**



## Actively Aerated Compost Tea



**Phelan Gardens**

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
Co. Springs, Co. 80918  
719-574-8058

[www.phelangardens.com](http://www.phelangardens.com)

# Plant Health Tonic

## What is Actively Aerated

### Compost Tea (AACT)?

Actively Aerated Compost Tea (AACT) is a **concentration of billions of beneficial microorganisms** (bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes) that can then be **sprayed directly onto the leaf surface or poured on as a root drench**. This "beneficial" biology occupies the surface area of the plant (leaves and roots primarily) and is encouraged to stick around by simple sugars exuded from the plant that feed the beneficial microorganisms.

### How is AACT different from “compost tea”?

“Compost tea” is a term often used to describe everything from “manure in a bucket with water” to “the runoff from worm castings”. This concept differs from AACT because even though all compost teas have some beneficial microorganisms, the existing microbiology has not been fed or oxygenated resulting in significantly lower microorganism counts.

### How is it used?

AACT isn't a significant source of the three macronutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium, though it does contain some. It does, however, contain an abundance of trace minerals (92+ earthbound elements) and microbiology (fungi and bacteria which process organic matter to make nutrients available to plants).

### Apply it in the following ways:

- 1) Pour over compost piles or mulch beds to inoculate
- 2) Foliar spray on leaves
- 3) Root drench

AACT can be diluted up to 3:1 to make it go further. **Just be sure to use dechlorinated water to dilute!**

### Our brewing process

First we dechlorinate our water. Chlorine is really hard on microorganisms. We off-gas with several air stones for about 12 hours.

Next we pump the water from the dechlorination tank into the Vortex Brewer. Once powered up, the vortex begins forming within minutes.

We then inoculate the water with a high quality biodynamic compost to start the brew with a strong diversity of beneficial microorganisms.

The microorganisms are hungry so we feed them: kelp for the fungi, molasses for the bacteria, and 92+ trace minerals for balance.

The tea is then brewed for 12 hours before it's teeming with microbes.

### How soon should I use the compost tea?

Actively Aerated Compost Tea is best used within 4 hours of being poured. Once the compost tea has been brewed for 12 hours, it's as alive, oxygenated, and balanced (between fungi and bacteria) as it will ever be. As soon as compost tea is poured from the brewer, into a container for you to take home, it's no longer being oxygenated and wants to be consumed. The sooner the better. That said, compost tea will still contribute beneficial fungi and bacteria even after being stored for up to two weeks. If you must store your compost tea, find a cool dark place (a refrigerator would be optimal).