

# Liquid Molasses

Molasses is a relatively inexpensive tool to use as we transition to an ecosystem that is more alive.

It's a very good idea to apply it with most microbial inoculants such as compost tea because it gives the microbes instant food to begin working with.

It's essential to apply a sugar source like molasses with nitrogen fertilizers to give the microbes a carbon source they can use in order to effectively work with that nitrogen.

Molasses is great for eating away thatch in lawns.

## **How To Apply Molasses**

Shake well and mix 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) per gallon of water to use as a soil stimulator. This could be done regularly, such as monthly or even weekly. Spray or drench.

Combine molasses with liquid organic fertilizers like kelp, microbial inoculants and nitrogen fertilizers like fish. Molasses is also sticky and helps everything stick to the plant leaves.

Mix it with water in a backpack sprayer or hose end sprayer, but even a watering can would work.

## **What Kind Of Molasses To Use**

The unsulfured variety is preferred when using molasses as fertilizer because the form of sulfur used in most molasses is there to kill microbes and the point is to grow microbes .

Molasses is a good, quick source of energy for the various forms of microbes and soil life in a compost pile or good living soil. Molasses is a carbon source that feeds the beneficial microbes that create greater natural soil fertility. Molasses is the best sugar for agricultural because of its trace minerals. It also contains significant amounts of potash, sulfur, and a variety of micro-nutrients.

Molasses works as a chelating agent. That's a scientific way of saying that molasses is one of those "magical" substances that can convert some chemical nutrients into a form that's easily available for soil bacteria and plants. Chelated minerals can be absorbed directly and remain available and stable in the soil.

## **Some Recipes using Molasses**

## **Guano Tea**

1 Gallon of water

1 TBSP of Guano (Bat Guano or Seabird Guano)

1 tsp Molasses

Mix the ingredients directly into the water and allow the tea mix to brew for 24 hours. It's best to use an aquarium pump to aerate the tea, but an occasional shaking can suffice if necessary and still produce a quality tea. Use as a soil drench, and also as a foliar feed every 2 to 4 weeks.

## **Alfalfa Meal Tea**

4 gallons of water

1 cup of fine ground Alfalfa Meal

1 TBSP Molasses

After a 24 hour brew, this 100% plant-based fertilizer is ready for application.

Alfalfa is a great organic plant food, with many benefits above and beyond just the N-P-K it can contribute to a soil mix or tea. We do plan to cover Alfalfa and it's many uses in greater detail soon in yet another thread. Use as a soil drench, and also as a foliar feed every 2 to 4 weeks.

## **Molasses a Fire Ant, White Cabbage Moth and Squash Bug repellent**

### **Fire Ant Repellent**

Dissolve 4 tablespoons of molasses in 1 gallon of water and spray. By the next day the fire ants should move away from the treated area.

Organic fire ant killer that is 30% orange oil and 70% liquid compost made from manure and molasses. The orange oil softens and dissolves the ant's exoskeleton, making them susceptible to attack by the microbes in the compost, while the molasses feeds the microbes and also smothers the ants. After the insects are dead, everything becomes energy-rich soil conditioner and will not harm any plant it touches. It can be used on any insect including mosquitoes and their larvae.

### **White Cabbage Moth repellent**

Mix a tablespoon of molasses in 1 liter of warm water and let cool. Spray every week or every 2 weeks as required for white cabbage moths. They hate it. Do it before white butterfly lays its eggs.

### **Squash Bug Repellent**

1 C Compost Tea + 1 oz. Molasses and water to make 1 gallon. Spray plants on both sides of the leaves and stems.