

Make Your Own Natural Fertilizer Easily

It's no secret you need healthy soil to grow healthy plants. Farmers have known this fact for thousands of years. If the soil is weak, your plants will be weak, and weak plants are naturally more susceptible to the dangers of drought, disease, insect infestation and even starvation. Yet gardeners continue to add layer after layer of fertilizers to their plants, without giving thought to the condition of the soil.

Many people treat gardening as an expensive hobby, dashing off to the garden center to buy every sort of lotion and potion that promises bigger blooms. Others have a keener sense of gardening, considering the entire process to be a sort of natural science project. They use the materials nature provided to boost the health of the soil, and the results are healthy gardens they can be proud of.

It's not hard to make your own natural fertilizer. Here are a few ways that you can use natural ingredients to encourage the microbial life in the soil, and increase the health of your plants:

Seaweed

Plants derived from the sea are wonderful, low-cost options to consider when you want to make your own natural fertilizer. Of course, you'll need to live near a coastal region to try this experiment.

The first step to creating seaweed fertilizer is to grab a few trash bags and take a walk along the seashore. Use the bags to collect kelp that you'll find along the coastline. Once you have enough kelp, empty the bags into a clean 55-gallon drum, fill it with water, and then cover it.

The color of the water will tell you when the seaweed is beginning to decompose. When the water turns brown, you have successful decomposition. Take some of the liquid from inside the drum, dilute it with water and spray or pour it around your plants. You'll have to be patient, as it can take about two months for your seaweed to fully decompose.

For even greater benefits, combine your seaweed compost with fish emulsion. Plants sprayed with this mixture seem to be more resistant to insects, and generally show some renewed growth. The only drawback to this type of natural fertilizer is the inevitable smell of fish and ocean that will permeate from your garden. Fortunately, this odor usually lasts for a couple of days after the initial application.

Earthworm Compost

One of nature's best allies in creating a lush garden is the lowly earthworm. You can easily create an inexpensive earthworm compost pit on your property. Find a convenient spot in your backyard, and dig a pit. Add fruit and vegetable scraps from the kitchen as well as grass clippings and leaves. The earthworms will find the goodies in your pit and quickly get to work, leaving you with a dark nutrition-rich treat for your garden. This compost should be applied to your garden in volumes of about ten percent. This is all that's needed to increase the health of your trees, vegetables and garden plants, rendering them stronger and more insect repellent.

Eggshells

If you've read gardening books and magazines, you've probably heard of a process called "liming". This involves adding a sprinkling of calcium carbonate throughout the garden. Plants and soil thrive from this natural material, and eggshells just happen to be made of 93% calcium carbonate. They also contain 1% nitrogen, about half a percent of phosphoric acid, and other trace elements that are essential for your garden's good health. You're your shells whenever you're cooking with eggs, grind them up and give your garden a natural boost of calcium carbonate.

Gardening is fun, relaxing, and personally rewarding. It can also be extremely inexpensive. Do the best you can for your plants, and for your pocketbook, and make your own natural fertilizer.