The difference between this... and this...

is the difference between dead dirt

and LIVE soil

What is Microbe Brew?

Eco-Cycle's Microbe Brew is a living soil amendment that instantly goes to work balancing your soil and feeding your plants by releasing the minerals and nutrients already present in your soil. It requires no prep work—just sprinkle it over your lawn and garden beds using a standard watering can and then water it in until your soil is thoroughly moistened.

What does it do?

Many soils, especially in Colorado, have very low levels of microbial activity due to pesticide and fungicide use, or due to depletion through harvesting, lawn clipping removal or neglect. Applying Microbe Brew immediately boosts soil microbe populations, which go to work digesting organic matter and minerals and turning them into plant-available forms that can be readily absorbed by roots, stimulating growth.

How is it made?

We start with worm composting, a system that converts food waste and other organic material into the most useful soil amendment on the planet with the help of Redworms (Eisenia fetida). As organic material passes through the gut of the worm, it is converted to castings—stable little balls of nutrients readily available for uptake by plant roots.

The castings are then brewed in highly oxygenated water under conditions that are optimal for the beneficial micro-organisms present in the castings to reproduce rapidly. When finished, Microbe Brew tea is a liquid teeming with living microbes and beneficial plant-growth compounds.

When and how should it be applied?

- Microbe Brew should be applied to houseplants, lawns or gardens the same day you purchase it because the tea will become less oxygenated over time, causing a reduction of active microbes.

- The tea should be applied season-long and is especially effective
  - ~ in the spring when your soil is just waking from the winter
  - ~ during the vigorous vegetative growth stage of early summer
  - ~ during the flowering/fruiting stage and in times of stress, such as hot spells or after mowing the lawn
  - ~ in the fall, applied along with compost to prepare for next spring.

- Ideal frequency and rate of application will vary according to the condition of your soil. There is no risk of "burning" or over-fertilizing your plants with the tea.

Where can I get Microbe Brew?

Microbe Brew is available from April through September at the:

Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM:
Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials
6400 Arapahoe Rd., Boulder
Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Prices

$25/5 gallons (covers all planted areas of a typical city lot)
$6/gallon (covers 200-400 square feet)
Discounted pre-paid punch cards also available.

Interested in larger quantities?

Contact Eco-Cycle for more information.

A refundable container deposit of $.50 ($5 for 5-gallon containers) will be charged at purchase.

Microbe Brew produces impressive results

In our turf trials done during the hottest part of the summer, we cut the water supply in half to both the control and the trial turf. The results? The control turf went dormant and the microbe-fed turf stayed green and vibrant. Plants receiving microbe brew are hardier and larger and show significant resistance to pests and diseases.

Why is Eco-Cycle® making Microbe Brew?

As much as half of the waste stream consists of food waste, yard waste and other organic material that could be composted. When buried in a landfill, organic material causes ground water contamination and contributes to global warming through the generation of methane. In contrast, when composted, food waste and other organics become a valuable soil amendment that can rejuvenate our badly depleted local soils.

That's why Eco-Cycle now has a commercial organic waste collection program for businesses and institutions in the Boulder area, serving University of Colorado cafeterias, Whole Foods Market, and the Boulder Farmers' Market, to name a few. The material we collect is currently going to a regional composter. In the future, Eco-Cycle plans to build a local compost site, so we can make compost products that can be used right here on our local soils.

Try Microbe Brew on your own garden and lawns and learn for yourself the powerful benefits of organic waste!

Dan Matsch – Eco-Cycle's Compost and Organic Farming Expert

Brewing the compost tea for Eco-Cycle® is composting and organic farming expert, Dan Matsch.

Before coming to Eco-Cycle, Dan was an organic farmer for 13 years and owned Gem o' the Field Organic Farm with his wife Carol. He sold produce, plants and flowers at the Boulder Farmers' Market for the 13 years he farmed, and he served on the Market's board for eight of those years.

As the Composting Manager for Eco-Cycle, Dan works hard to bring composting resources to Boulder and Broomfield Counties for businesses and residents, as well as provide opportunities for local farmers and growers to benefit from the compost products Eco-Cycle creates.

Learn more about Microbe Brew and how to apply it by watching our video online at www.ecocycle.org/microbe-brew.

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Water your soil with LIFE!

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Microbe Brew

Beneficial Soil Microbe Tea

a natural alternative to fertilizer made from worm castings

Great for lawns, gardens, flower beds, trees, shrubs and houseplants!

- Save water
- Grow hardier, pest-resistant plants
- Replenish depleted or pesticide-treated soil

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