



Organic Land Care with

SOUL Member Newsletter Summer 2017

Note from SOUL

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After some restructuring, we are excited to revive our member newsletter - *Organic Land Care with SOUL*. This will be available to members on a quarterly basis. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see be sure to let us know!

You may have noticed changes to our website recently as our new website was launched at organiclandcare.org. We are always updating the Science News and will slowly start adding to the News blog so be sure to check back for updates.

SOUL News

New Professional Members in 2016-17

SOUL welcomed 16 new Accredited Practitioners in the last year.

Sundaure Alford	Lynn Archbold	Angel Beyde	Howard Cole
Wayne Copeland	Lainie Currie	Julia Dupuis	Holde Fink
Pam Harrison	David Livingston-Lowe	Colin Lundy	Andre Marthaler
Tania Marthaler	Theresa Matamoros	Robin Reilly	Ted Zafiris

Karen Heisz has upgraded to a Certified Professional after 4 years as an Accredited Practitioner.

Congratulations to all our Professional Members!

Compost Tea

Compost tea is a hot topic during the gardening season. Pumping air through a mixture of compost and water will draw the aerobic microbes on the compost into the mixture for ease of spreading on your garden and lawn. With the right ingredients, and a good brewer, compost tea is easy to make to promote soil and plant health.

Making it: Using non-chlorinated water, good quality compost and microbe food, pump air through the mixture for 24-48 hours. Once the brewing is complete, it should be used within six hours to ensure the undesirable anaerobic microbes don't take over. The tea can be used as is, or diluted to cover as much area as possible.

The science: Pushing the air mixes the microbes from the compost into the water, where they flourish on oxygen and microbe food. Steeped tea (no air bubbles) may not sufficiently activate aerobic microbes, and anaerobic microbes could proliferate, creating an ineffective compost tea.

Benefits of using compost tea:

- *Spray it directly on plant leaves to protect them from disease;*
- *A little goes a long way, tea can cover a larger area than the same amount of compost on it's own;*
- *Your soil will love the extra microbes*

For more information about compost tea or to purchase a brewer visit

The Organic Gardener's Pantry
(www.gardenerspantry.ca)

or

Smiling Gardener
(www.smilinggardener.com)

- SOUL Executive Director



If you have a garden picture you would like to share, send it to us at administrator@organiclandcare.org