

BLOG post – Photo story: ORGANIC FERTILIZER OF NETTLE

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The Nettle Fertilizer

Every plants needs enough nutrients to grow and develop well. If we do not want to destroy our surroundings that enrich the soil with valuable nutrients, we use only natural way. We seek inspiration from nature and our ancestors.

We have a few ways to implement nutrients to the soil with already grown plants, it is quite a quick process. One of these ways is to use liquid herbal fertilizer. The most valuable species of herbs is Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Our ancestors used this herb. Nettles are full of nitrogen and other nutrients that plants need.

Except nettle we can use other herbs. I frequently use comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*). It gives potassium for plants.

The production process:

1. We need fresh nettles, container (not metallic, I use plastic buckets), water and a stick for stirring.



2. Cut the nettles and put into the bucket. Nettles should be cut into small pieces. I use whole stems with leaves. It gets worse to mix, but I will not have to sieve it. Stems will remain long but leaves will fall apart. I often add comfrey (in the photo).



3. Fill up the nettles with water. Water from stream, clear river or rain water is the best.



4. Put the bucket on a place where odour does not matter.



5. Stir the mixture daily. Do not use metal. There is being created a foam during fermentation.



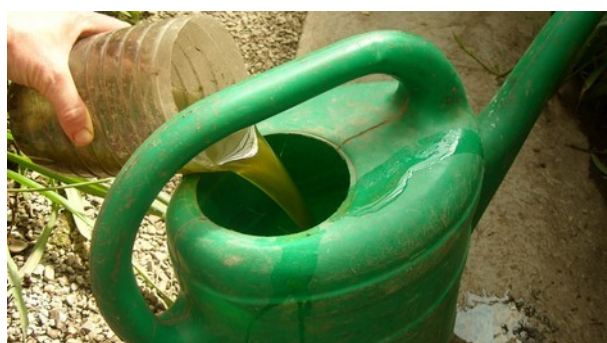
After two days, after mixing



6. The fermentation process takes one or two weeks. It depends on the temperature. When the foam does not form, the fermentation stops. The herbal manure is done.



7. Dilute manure with water – 1:10. I pour manure into a small can at first. I measure 0,9 liter manure and put into a 10-liter can. Then I pour the water into can in full.



8. I use this excellent organic fertilizer for vegetables in my garden. It is fine for potatoes, corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, zucchini, pumpkins, celery, cabbage, cauliflowers, broccoli and kohlrabi. At work I use it for balcony flowers and



tropical plant grown in the glasshouse.





The woman, who worked in the



glasshouse before me, used this organic fertilizer too. She learned it from her mother.



Other uses:

I dilute manure with water 1:20 for epiphytic plants and apply as spray.

I also use this spray for pests control in the glasshouse. However, I do not use nettles only, I most often add other herbs – tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and common wormwood (*Artemisia vulgaris*). We can also use absinthe wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) or other wormwood, but only common wormwood (*Artemisia vulgaris*) grows wildy in my country.

I do not use spray for pests control in my garden. My garden is full of insects, predators and insects parasites, too. Therefore, pests cannot overgrow. Nature is able to preserve the equilibrium.