



School Gardening
Resources

PRIMARY LEVEL

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Making Liquid Organic Fertilisers For The School Garden





Time of Year	March to June
Aim	To make liquid fertilisers which can be used in the garden.
Resources Needed	Bucket with covering, bricks, comfrey leaves, nettle leaves, 3 banana skins, $\frac{1}{2}$ litre container, sieve, gloves, mask, watering can.
Cross Curriculum Relevance	SESE: Living things, exploring / research, recording, observing Maths: Measuring, recording, active learning Literacy: New words, writing, spelling Informal Curriculum: Discover Primary Science



Nettle Tea

Nettle tea has a high nitrogen content and so benefits leafy vegetables. Collect the leaves and stems of nettles when young. Cut these up into small pieces and place in a bucket. Place a brick on top to press them down. Add enough rainwater to cover them. Place a covering over the bucket because they emit a foul smell. Leave for about a month before straining the contents and diluting the mixture in rainwater at a ratio of 1 part nettle juice to 10 parts of water.



Comfrey Tea

Comfrey tea is high in potassium so is good for plants that flower and fruit. Place a bucket full of comfrey leaves into a container in April and place a brick on top. Cover with rainwater. Place a lid on the container and leave for at least 4 weeks before straining the contents and using it in a ratio of 1:10 around plants.



Banana Tea

The liquid produced from banana skins is high in potassium and is particularly good for use on potatoes. Soak 2 or 3 banana skins in half a litre of water for a few days. Use undiluted.

Health and Safety

- ★ Always wear gloves when handling nettles and comfrey leaves as both can irritate the skin.
- ★ Both nettle and comfrey liquid fertilisers emit strong, unpleasant smells so wear a mask when diluting them if you find the smells too powerful.

