



## Soil Foodweb NY

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## Compost Tea Analysis

Client: Paul Sachs

North Country Organics

PO Box 372

Bradford, VT 05033

Sample Received: 05/23/03

Date Mailed:

Tea recipe:

Invoice #:

Grower:

### Organism Biomass Data

Sample #	Treatment	Tea Volume (mL)	Active Bacterial Biomass (µg/mL)	Total Bacterial Biomass (µg/mL)	Active Fungal Biomass (µg/mL)	Total Fungal Biomass (µg/mL)	Hyphal Diameter (µm)	Protozoa Numbers /mL			Total Nematode Numbers (#/mL)
								Flagellates	Amoebae	Ciliates	
1451	Tea	1.00	67.2	438	13.0	18.7	3	NR	NR	NR	NR

**Bold** means low

Very good bacterial activity

Excellent total bacterial biomass

Excellent active fungal biomass

Excellent total fungi

Highly beneficial community of fungi present

Desired Range	1	10 - 150	150 - 300	2 - 10	2 - 20	(A)	1,000	1,000	20-50	2 - 10
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(A) Hyphal diameter of 2.0 indicates mostly actinomycete hyphae, 2.5 indicates community is mainly ascomycete, typical soil fungi for grasslands, diameters of 3.0 or higher indicate community is dominated by highly beneficial fungi, a Basidiomycete community.

Temperature of brewing, type of water (chlorine will kill organisms), type of compost and type of brewer used must be considered in determining the set of organisms in the tea. See the Compost Tea Manual for complete information. Tea assessment should be accompanied by leaf organism assessment to see if there were effects of spraying or diluting in the sprayer. Pesticide use, fertilizer use, tillage, irrigation, etc., affect soil and foliar effectiveness. One report is sent to the mailing address on the submission form.

## Organism Ratios

Sample #	Treatment	Total Fungal to Total Bacterial Biomass	Active to Total Fungal Biomass	Active to Total Bacterial Biomass	Active Fungal to Active Bacterial Biomass	Plant Available N Supply from Predators (lbs/ac)	Root-Feeding Nematode Presence
1451	Tea	0.04	0.70	0.15	0.19	NR	NR
		Good tea for soil or foliar lawn applications	Excellent percent of fungi present are active	Good amount of bacteria are active	Good ratio of activity for soil or foliar apps on turf		
Desired Range		(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

- (1) For example, for soil drenches, with the following plants, Grass:0.5-1.5; Berries, Shrubs, grape: 2-5; Deciduous Trees: 5-10; Conifer: 10-100. For foliar sprays, ratio should be 0.01 to 0.05 because foliar sprays are typically best strongly bacterial-dominated.
- (2) Teas in general have high ratios of active to total fungi, since what fungi are present are actively growing, but with low total biomass. In general, fungi don't like to grow suspended in liquid unless a solid surface is present. Bacterial activity must be high, above 25%.
- (3) Teas generally have lower fungal biomass than bacteria, so this value is typically less than 10%. It is desirable to make this ratio as high as possible.
- (4) Based on release of N from protozoan and nematode consumption of bacteria and fungi. Often protozoa and nematodes compete for food resources. When one is high, the other may be low. Also, if predator numbers are high, the prey may have low numbers
- (5) Identification to genus. For species identification of root-feeders, send samples to local parasitic nematology lab.

Fungal foods are humic acids, woody mulch, fungal compost, fungal compost tea.