

Soil Biology and Compost Tea Clinic

With Mario Lanthier, CropHealth Advising and Research, Kelowna, BC

Thursday, September 19 | 8:30am - 12:00pm

Limited to 50 participants!

Qualifies for Landscape Industry Certified, ISA and BC Pesticide Applicators Re-Certification CEU's.

Mixing compost in water has been used for many years in agriculture. When the mixture is left to stand for many days with minimal disturbance, this 'steepage' favours the extraction of antibiotic compounds that play an important role in suppression of plant pathogens. A more recent method is to actively supply aeration, for example with an aquarium pump. The high oxygen concentration stimulates population growth of aerobic microbes that help with disease prevention, nutrient cycling and soil structure.

Over a 3-year period, CropHealth Advising & Research conducted twenty-five experiments in their laboratory where a standard recipe was compared to variations of ingredients or procedures. The finished teas were examined by direct microscopy for identification and count of microbial content. What is the impact of adding kelp? Which microbes are stimulated by longer brewing time? The results helped modify the compost tea recipe to meet specific needs.



This **very unique, hands-on** workshop will review data on aerated compost tea while making aerated compost tea from start to finish. You will build the machine, measure the ingredients and bubble air. And, as a group, you will discuss the ingredients and procedures.

Whether you are a landscaper, wholesale nursery or greenhouse grower, this groundbreaking information and practical training will keep you on the leading edge of using compost tea.

About Mario

Mario has been working in the horticulture industry since 1980. His company offers services in Plant Health Care to public agencies and landscape maintenance companies in British Columbia and Alberta. Mario is a bugologist (a friend of bugs) who thinks compost is great and soil microbes are cool. He was a certified soil foodweb advisor for many years. Research on compost tea done in the company laboratory was presented at an international conference of biostimulants in France in 2012.

Pricing

Early Bird Rate (By Sept 6):

BCLNA Members/Students \$150; Non-members \$175

After Sept 6:

BCLNA Members/Students \$175; Non-members \$200

REGISTER NOW! Seats are selling fast for this clinic!