

Fertilizer Recipe Cards

8 organic DIY fertilizers from Appendix F of Ripe Rewards · Cut apart & keep in the garden · DirtDivaDiaries.com

✂ — — — — CUT ALONG DASHED LINES — — — — ✂

Compost Tea

SOIL & FOLIAR

Nutrient-rich soil drench & foliar boost

INGREDIENTS

- **1 part** mature compost
- **5 parts** water
- **1** bucket or large container
- **1** strainer or cheesecloth

🕒 3-5 days steep

📅 Every 2 weeks

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Combine compost and water in bucket at a **1:5 ratio**.
- 2 Stir the mixture **once daily** and let steep for 3-5 days.
- 3 Strain through cheesecloth to **remove all solids**.
- 4 Dilute further if the liquid is very dark. **Water plants at the base** or use as a foliar spray.

✦ Ivy: "Compost tea acts as a gentle, organic fertilizer and helps with soil aeration and nutrient absorption — a whole-garden treat."

Eggshell Calcium Boost

SOIL AMENDMENT

Blossom end rot prevention — tomato's #1 need

INGREDIENTS

- **Saved** eggshells (as many as you collect)
- Blender, coffee grinder, or mortar & pestle (optional)

⏸ Slow-release calcium

📅 Year-round / ongoing

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 **Rinse and dry** shells completely before storing.
- 2 Grind into fine powder in a coffee grinder or blender for **fastest breakdown**.
- 3 **Sprinkle powder** around the base of each plant or till lightly into soil.
- 4 Add to the tomato area **all year long** — even in winter before planting season.

★ Kev: "I just crunch them in my hands and bury them. If you have an old coffee bean grinder, they shred eggshells very nicely and speed up breakdown."

Banana Peel Fertilizer

SOIL AMENDMENT

Potassium & phosphorus for fruit development

INGREDIENTS

- **2-4** banana peels per plant
- *Optional:* freeze-dryer or dehydrator for powder method

⚡ High in potassium

📅 Flowering & fruiting stage

INSTRUCTIONS — TWO METHODS

- A Bury method (easiest):** Cut peels into small pieces. Bury 1-2 inches deep in the soil around your plants — away from the stem.
- B Powder method (slow-release):** Freeze-dry or dehydrate banana peels, then grind into powder. Sprinkle around the base monthly.

✦ Ivy: "Banana peels are good sources of potassium and phosphorus — exactly what your plants need during flowering and fruiting. Start adding them at first flower bud."

Ivy's Calcium Milk Drench

SOIL DRENCH

Kitchen-scrap calcium — Ivy's secret weapon

INGREDIENTS

- **Leftover** milk (any kind — even expired)
- **Saved** eggshells (crushed)
- **Optional:** bone meal or oyster shell

⚡ Fast-acting calcium

📅 Every few weeks

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Pour **leftover milk directly around the base** of tomato plants — no dilution needed.
- 2 **Work crushed eggshells** into the surrounding soil as a slow-release companion.
- 3 For extra calcium, add bone meal or oyster shell at planting time — **oyster shell releases slowly** and is best applied early in the season.

✦ Ivy: "I dump leftover milk right by my tomato plants and they eat it up like it's a gourmet meal. Tomatoes are calcium fiends! It's a calcium buffet for your tomatoes."

Fertilizer Recipe Cards · Page 2

Fish fertilizer · Wood ash · Coffee grounds · Seaweed tea · All from Ripe Rewards Appendix F · DirtDivaDiaries.com

✂ — — — — CUT ALONG DASHED LINES — — — — ✂

Dead Fish Fertilizer PLANTING HOLE

The old-timer's secret for perfect tomatoes

INGREDIENTS

- **Fish** scraps — bones, skin & guts from cleaning your catch
- **OR:** store-bought fish-based organic fertilizer
- **~1 in.** soil to cover

- ✔ **N + slow-release Ca**
- 📅 **At planting — once per season**

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Dig your tomato planting hole to the correct depth.
- 2 Drop **all fish scraps** (bones, skin, guts) into the bottom of the hole.
- 3 **Cover with 1 inch of soil** before placing your tomato transplant on top. Plant as normal.
- 4 Fish breaks down into amazing fertilizer; bones provide **slow-release calcium** all season.

⚠ *Warning: Do NOT use fish fertilizer if you live where bears, raccoons, or other wildlife could be attracted to your garden. Blood meal carries the same caution.*

Wood Ash Fertilizer USE SPARINGLY

Potassium boost — use sparingly, it raises pH

INGREDIENTS

- **Small** amount wood ash — from **untreated, unpainted wood only**

- ⚠ **Raises soil pH**
- 🔪 **Test pH first**
- 📅 **Sparingly — 1-2x/season max**

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 **Test soil pH first.** Wood ash raises pH — tomatoes want 6.0-6.8. Only use if pH is already on the low (acidic) side.
- 2 Sprinkle a **thin layer** of wood ash around plants — never pile it on.
- 3 **Work lightly into soil surface.** Water in after application.
- 4 Use only once or twice per season — **"it can have a huge effect on soil pH"** if overused.

⚠ *Book warning: "Too much can alter soil pH too drastically." Never use ash from charcoal, treated lumber, or painted wood — chemicals can harm plants and contaminate edibles.*

Coffee Ground Fertilizer SOIL & COMPOST

Organic matter + gentle acidity + pest deterrent

INGREDIENTS

- **Used** coffee grounds (after brewing)
- **Optional:** leftover brewed coffee — pour it directly!

- ⚖ **Slightly acidic**
- 🐕 **Dog & cat deterrent!**
- 📅 **Every few weeks**

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 **Sprinkle used grounds** lightly around the base of plants. Do not pile thickly — can repel water if compacted.
- 2 Or **mix into the top inch of soil** to improve drainage and water retention at the same time.
- 3 Add to your **compost bin** to boost nutrient content of the finished compost.
- 4 Leftover brewed coffee: **pour directly on a different plant each morning** — rotate around the garden.

★ *Key: "If you often end up with extra coffee in the morning like I do, just pour it into your garden. Do a different plant each day and your garden will appreciate the treat."*

Seaweed Fertilizer Tea SOIL & FOLIAR

Trace minerals, iodine & micronutrients

INGREDIENTS

- **Dried** seaweed (rinsed to remove salt) or pre-rinsed dried product
- **Large** container of water
- **1** strainer or cheesecloth

- 🌊 **Trace minerals**
- 🕒 **2-week steep**
- 📅 **Monthly drench**

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 **Rinse seaweed thoroughly** to remove salt — or buy a pre-rinsed, dried product from a garden centre.
- 2 Place seaweed in a large container of water. **Steep for 2 weeks** somewhere out of direct sun.
- 3 **Strain out the seaweed.** The remaining liquid is your seaweed tea — ready to use.
- 4 Water plants at the base or use as a **foliar spray** — seaweed is excellent for micronutrient delivery through the leaves.

✦ *Ivy: "Seaweed is packed with trace nutrients and is especially good at providing iodine and other micronutrients your tomatoes won't get from a standard fertilizer."*