

Fertilisation with liquid manure

During the growing season, nutrient-hungry vegetables such as cabbage and tomatoes need additional, fast-acting nutrients. Homemade liquid manures are an economical and environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic fertilisers.

Liquid manure is rich in protein, potassium and nitrogen. It must therefore be handled with care to avoid burns and overgrowth. By diluting the liquid manure, you can easily obtain less aggressive solutions. It is best to pour the liquid manure onto damp soil or compost on sunless days.

Why is nettle fertiliser so popular?

- It contains a lot of nitrogen.
- It is a gentle, fast-acting liquid fertiliser.
- It promotes life in the soil, especially earthworms.
- It makes plants more resistant to disease.
- It promotes growth and the formation of chlorophyll.

How to use:

- Soak 1 part coarsely chopped nettles (1 kg) with 10 parts water (10 litres) in a wooden, ceramic or plastic container.
- Only use seedless nettles.
- Sprinkle a handful of rock flour over the liquid to avoid unpleasant odours.
- Place the container in the sun to promote fermentation as quickly as possible.
- Stir the mixture daily.
- The liquid manure is ready after about two weeks, when it no longer foams and has taken on a clear and dark appearance.
- Depending on use, skim off and dilute.
- Water the roots of the plant with the well-mixed liquid using a watering can without a rose spout. Any pieces of plant material still remaining can be poured onto the soil as well.



Soil improvement

Use	Slurry-to-water ratio
Sprouts, young plants	1:20
Occasional fertilisation on moist soil, for vegetables, flowers, fruit or regular fertilisation for plants with high nutrient requirements	1:10
Fertilisation every 15 days for vegetables, fruits and plants with medium nutrient requirements in dry soil	1:20
Weekly fertilisation for vegetables, flowers and fruits	1:40
When the sky is overcast, spray as fertiliser on the leaves	1:50

Other types of slurry

Common comfrey or rough comfrey

(*Symphytum officinale* or *S. asperum*)

- rich in protein, potassium and nitrogen,
- can be mixed with nettles,
- works particularly well on tomatoes, celery and berries, which can be watered daily with half a litre of 1:20 diluted slurry.

1. **Herbs** (mint, hyssop, marjoram, chives, shepherd's purse, horsetail, chamomile, dandelion, tansy, garlic, onions, ferns, etc.) can be added to the slurry in varying proportions.
 2. **Animal manure** or a shovelful of ripe **compost** can be mixed in (mix 1 bucket of compost, 10 litres of water, wait until the solid soil particles settle at the bottom of the bucket, then water directly onto the plants).
- Cow dung without straw or chicken manure** macerated with water like vegetable manure makes liquid manure.
3. You can also add **rock flour and herbs** for even greater effectiveness.

Composting and applying liquid or solid manure are all good eco-friendly options, but not all gardens are suited to this. Before going ahead, you must be sure that the smell of these substances and the visual appearance of their containers will not bother your neighbours. Keep this in mind when planning your garden!

