

# **Wildlands CEPF Final Project Report**

**22 October 2012**

**By Masifukulane Support Group**

## **Introduction:**

The Masifukulane Support Group and Wildlands Conservation Trust signed a contract for a small grant summing up to R50 000.00. The term for this agreement started on 01/05/12 and ends on 31/10/12. The project focuses mainly on building capacity of women at Imbali township, skilling them with sustainable farming practises.

## **Implementation:**

**The Support Group identified and worked with 15 women coming from poor families (households).**

### **Activities and workshops conducted**

- Identification of five pilot sites (gardens)
- Developed gardening curriculum with the community
- Conducted training on composting and manure utilization
- Implementation of composting activities with the community done
- Provision of continuous technical support and facilitation of workshops.











**Three**

Three workshops were conducted during the growing season and garden seedlings were supplied to beneficiaries of the project. This includes the garden poles and fencing materials

## Liquid Manure

Liquid manures/brews/ teas are a simple way of giving your plants a boost. The aim is to provide plants with natural plant foods quickly during their growing season. It is useful for heavy feeders like cabbages and to give seedlings a boost.

### How to make liquid manures from plants

A good plant for liquid manure is comfrey. Most soft green leaves and stems can also be used and weeds are ideal. Avoid plants which are very strong smelling. Plants are made of different quantities of nutrients and take up different nutrients from the soil. It is best to use a range of plant materials to make your liquid. Make sure you only use healthy plants.

- ❖ Make sure your container is clean before you use it.
- ❖ Collect the plant material and fill up the container. You must keep on adding material to the container every week
- ❖ Place a rock on top of the plant material in the container and put the lid on. Do not add water. The plant material will make its own liquid. If you are only using weeds, and no comfrey or banana stems, you may need to add a little water, to just cover the compressed plant material.
- ❖ Place it in a sunny position and two weeks later check to see if the leaves have turned black. If you tilt the container you should find a black juice. This is the concentrated plant liquid manure.
- ❖ This liquid is very strong and should be diluted as follows:

**Seedlings:** 1 tin of liquid manure for every 4 tins of water.

**Bigger plants:** 1 tin of liquid manure to 2 tins water. If you make the mixture too strong it can burn the leaves of plants.

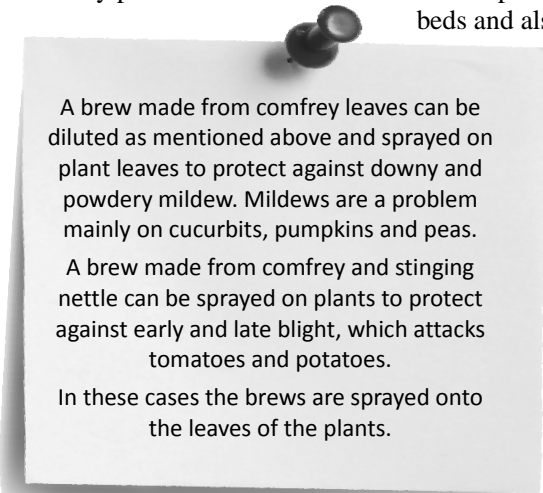
Every two weeks pour the mixture on the soil around your plants, after you have watered them. You should pour at least one tin of this diluted mixture around each seedling or plant. The tin should be the size of a big jam tin.

### Good plants for liquid manures

#### Comfrey

This plant has large hairy leaves and grows in wet shady places. The leaves contain a lot of potassium. These can be used to mulch your vegetable beds and also to make liquid feeds for your plants Comfrey is also a good spinach and medicine. A tea made from the leaves is good for high blood

Comfrey pressure arthritis.  
From: Useful Plants for Land Design, Pelum



A brew made from comfrey leaves can be diluted as mentioned above and sprayed on plant leaves to protect against downy and powdery mildew. Mildews are a problem mainly on cucurbits, pumpkins and peas.

A brew made from comfrey and stinging nettle can be sprayed on plants to protect against early and late blight, which attacks tomatoes and potatoes.

In these cases the brews are sprayed onto the leaves of the plants.

and



### Stinging nettle

This is one of the best plants you can use in plant brews. It contains a wide variety of nutrients and trace elements and is a well-balanced plant food. It is best to collect these plants in the natural forests where they occur and plant a few in your garden. They do not survive frost, but otherwise grow almost anywhere.

### Banana stems

These are chopped up and placed in the container with other plants and leaves. The stems have a high concentration of potassium and water and make a good liquid base for the brew.

### Weeds

Black Jack, Amaranths, Chickweed, Galant Soldier. All fast growing weeds, with soft dark green leaves are good. Avoid using grasses and sedges.

### How to make liquid manure from animal manure

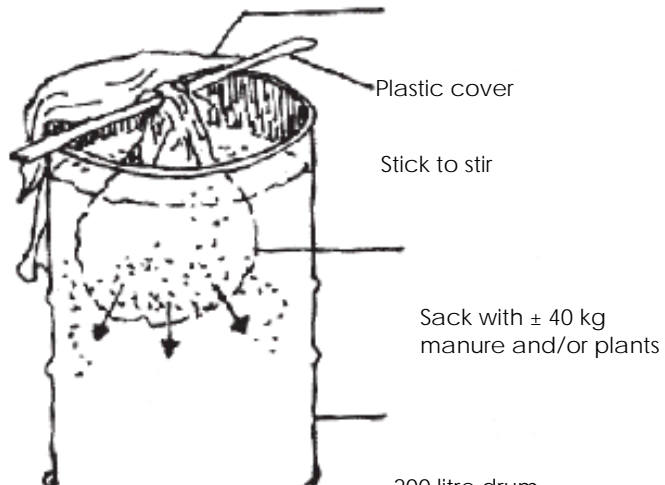
Manure can be used from chickens, rabbits, cows, goats and sheep. A mixture of manures is best.

- ❖ Put your fresh manure mixture into an orange packet and tie the top of the bag.
- ❖ Put the bag in the container and attach it to a stick or a rope. Then fill the container with water. For every 1kilogram of manure you will need 5 liters of water. This means an orange sack full of manure in a large bucket (50l), or half the bag in a normal sized household bucket (20l). This is a way of keeping the manure and the water separate, because you should not put the wet manure on your plants.
- ❖ Cover the container with a lid. Stir every few days.
- ❖ After two weeks the mixture will be ready to be used. It should look like weak tea. Before using the liquid, stir the mixture well.
- ❖ This liquid will be very strong and should be diluted:

**Seedlings:** 1 tin of liquid to 8 tons of water (or buckets or bottles)

**Bigger plants:** 1 tin liquid to 4 tins of water

If you make the mixture too strong it can burn the leaves of plants.



Every two weeks pour the mixture on the soil around your plants, after you have watered them. Again, use at least one big jam tin full for each seedling or plant. Avoid applying your mixture in the middle of the day or on very hot days.

### **Good sources for animal liquid manures**

#### **Kraal manure (cattle):**

Either use fresh manure or use manure that has been collected in a kraal. In this way you can ensure that the manure contains as many nutrients as possible and that the nutrients have not been lost into the air through baking in the sun and drying out. This is especially important if you need your liquid manure to contain some Nitrogen.

#### **Chicken manure:**

With chicken manure it is important to collect the droppings while they are fresh. Again this keeps the nitrogen and other plant food concentrated in the dry droppings. It is possible to collect the droppings daily and keep them in a sack in a cool dark place, until you have enough to make a brew.



Liquid manure made from chicken manure can burn plants, as it can contain a high level of Nitrogen. It is important to dilute this brew properly before use. If you are unsure, test the brew on a few plants only and come back the next day. If the edges of the leaves have gone brown and crinkly overnight, the brew is too strong and has “burnt” your plants.

#### **Goat manure:**

This is very mild manure and is well balanced. It is unlikely to “burn” plants, but may also be a little low in phosphorus, depending on the diet of the goats.

#### **Other manures:**

Manure from rabbits can also be safely used. It is suggested not to use the manure from pigs, due to the possibility of carrying worm eggs that can infect people. Do not use manure from dogs and cats for the same reason.

#### **Urine**

Human urine is an excellent garden tonic. Urine (from healthy people who are not on medication) is collected, diluted and watered onto the soil around plants. Like plant based liquid manure, it should be diluted to a weak tea colour. Avoid using it in the same place regularly.















