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Eigenraam, K. International Plant Propagators' Society, combined proceedings, 2010,
60:307-311. 2011.

The Production and Use of Compost Tea Xtract for Improved Plant Growth[®]

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I work for Rhizopon BV, a Dutch company that has produced plant rooting hormone since 1940. I have been a consultant for almost 30 years giving advise based upon field research..

INTRODUCTION

Growers are well aware that rooting hormones influence root formation when propagating plants from cuttings. Over the years we confirmed that healthy mother plants produce cuttings that rapidly produce quality roots. Among the questions that arose during my early research was, what makes the best cutting to use for plant propagation? My answer came in the past 20 years of testing. 2010 is called the “YEAR OF BIODIVER SITY.” My conclusion is, “biodiversity” produces the best cuttings.

High microbial diversity in the rhizosphere and on the leaves of plants provides protection and optimal nourishment. These are critical parameters for high quality mother plants. The resulting cuttings have a population of diversity dynamics.

In 1998 I started research on the use of compost tea. The primary reason for this research has been to vitalize the plant’s above- and below-ground environment.

My research was focused on:

- Rhizosphere enrichment of bare soil.
- Substrates such as peat and coir but also rockwool.
- Phylosphere enrichment through foliar application.
- Decomposing fallen leaves.
- Soil structure improvement.
- Support of the natural disease suppression systems of plants.
- Organically bound nutrients and root development in cuttings.



Figure 1. Philosphere of a tree in the tropics. Covered with plants and trillions of different microorganisms.