



## COFFEE & EGG SHELLS - NOT JUST FOR COMPOST

### Ways to use coffee grounds in your garden

- Till coffee grounds directly into the top 6-8 inches of soil when preparing new planting beds as a means of adding organic matter to the soil. The grounds improve the soil texture while acting as a slow release fertilizer.
- Throw grounds on the surface of the garden to discourage slugs; caffeine is toxic to them, it may not kill them but will repel them.
- Ants hate coffee and will avoid areas treated with it.
- Even though used coffee grounds are no longer very acidic, acid loving plants will love the nutritional boost.
- Dilute coffee grounds with water at a rate of ½ lb coffee to 5 gallons of water for a fast acting fertilizer
- Use grounds as planting bed mulch.

*Be aware that the finely ground espresso grounds can be a problem; they have a tendency to cake on the surface and in turn, block water and light from the plant roots. Make sure the grounds are broken up or mixed into the soil.*

### Ways you can use crushed egg shells in your garden:

- Instead of throwing eggs shells away, put them in the bottom of plant pots instead of stones. Egg shells are much lighter than stones and they are a great source of nutrition.
- Place crushed egg shells in a circle on top of the ground surface around tender plant stems such as peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage to deter slugs and cutworms.
- Place crushed egg shells in the soil near tomatoes. Calcium is very useful to tomatoes because the extra calcium will help prevent blossom end rot.
- Egg shells provide calcium to your garden while coffee grounds provide a high content of nitrogen to your garden. Calcium and nitrogen supplements (egg shells and coffee grounds) will help keep your garden soil and plants healthy. Use the coffee grounds and egg shells to keep slugs away from the plants.....they don't like things with sharp edges....
- egg shells are ~90% calcium carbonate. For those of you who like use garden lime, you've just found a really inexpensive (arguably free if you buy lots of eggs anyway) source of lime.
- Give your egg shells a rinse before putting them to use in your garden. Raw eggs are likely to attract a whole range of pests.