

Comfrey

Who am I and what's all the fuss about?

Let me tell you all about me.

I have a fair bit of attitude. I am a fast growing, herbaceous, perennial plant. I hang with my cool cousins, the borage family.

I have heaps of nitrogen stored in my leaves and if you add them to your compost, they will give it a super boost. That'll make those microbes decompose of your compost faster.

Here at Ballys Patch, my huge tuberous roots go deep down into the thick clay soil, where they extract minerals and other nutrients which aren't available to many of the other plants here (see I'm better than them!!!). I store much of them in my leaves.

My leaves make excellent fertiliser and are used as a green manure and mulch. Just cut

my leaves and spread them over planting beds. Left to decompose they help condition your heavy clay soils.

I know how much you like them, so grow me and harvest my leaves to provide a potassium-rich feed for your precious tomatoes, gooseberries, currants and citrus trees.

You humans can make liquid fertiliser by “steeping” my chopped leaves in water for a few weeks until they form a dark, thick liquid. The liquid fertiliser should be diluted about 12:1 (water : liquid fert) prior to application. Don't over do it, I'm strong, you know. Oh and watch out because I have lots of protein in my leaves and my liquid fertiliser will stink at first. That's what you get for chopping off my leaves.

Hey, I told you I have attitude so you had better watch out for me because my cut stems have the potential to take root and I can spread myself around your garden. I also

have hairy leaves that your bare skin won't like. Glove up humans!