



liquid fish sourcing

Posted by [Michael Phillips](#)

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[liquid fish sourcing](#)

October 22, 2018 04:10PM

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

Two points relevant to a discussion about liquid fish hydrolysate are cost effectiveness and the fish species involved. I recently gave this answer in addressing the question are all cold-processed fish sources the same:

Cold-processing of whole fish is the key to a biological product. The filet may have been removed but the oils are still intact. **Neptune's Harvest** and **Organic Gem** are both out of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and utilize unwanted species caught in trawling nets, primarily dogfish shark. **Dramm** and **Schafer's** in the Midwest utilize Asian carp, an invasive species determined to reach the Great Lakes. **Brown's** in North Carolina utilizes rainbow trout but I suspect this might be farm-raised fish (fed gmo soymeal). I've heard Brown's gets a charge of ocean species as well but haven't confirmed that. And then there's **Pacific-Gro** in Washington that promotes the higher quality oils found in wild salmon coupled with crab and shrimp remnants to add a 'chitin factor' to its fish product. Price point certainly matters and that often comes down to shipping costs. I order from Organic Gem as a pallet load of four barrels ships from relatively nearby in the Northeast. I've had the opportunity to use the Dramm product and it seems equally rich. Same for Neptune's Harvest. Most growers understand that we are not talking about 'fish emulsion' which lacks the oily portion and has been pasteurized. Be aware as well that some conventional ag companies spike nitrogen levels in so-called hydrolysate products.

Chime in with your experiences. I'm particularly wanting to hear anything more about the fish species being used. Some powdered fish fertilizers are made from species specifically caught solely for this one purpose. Such taking from ocean ecosystems on an industrial scale to prop up depleted soils fails on an ethical level in my opinion. It's a fine enough line (as described above) with what I consider to all be reputable companies.

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 10/27/2018 01:22AM by Michael Phillips.

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[Tom Kleffman](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

March 10, 2019 07:21PM

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 30

Fish, whole or partial, are for all practical purposes free for me, but I am unsure how to process them. I live in the upper midwest, and filling a bucket with rough fish from a local lake could be done with the kids, a few fishing poles, and a can of corn. Just chunk them up, run through a blender, add water and an aerator for a while, and filter out solids later?

Tom Kleffman

currently building a fruit orchard from scratch on the Bayfield Peninsula of Wisconsin, 4 miles south of Lake Superior, dead center of the snow belt, zone 5.

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[Karen Brindle](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

March 11, 2019 09:53PM

Registered: 9 years ago

Posts: 103

I use Pacific Grow since it is "local" but I buy it from a retailer. Expensive and smelly, but does the job well, trees happy! I am intrigued to hear other responses to Tom's idea of processing his own fish! Sounds very cost effective and would make for happy kids too!

[Vista Ridge Orchard](#)

Zone 8a in Washington

235 Cider and heritage apple trees, 72 varieties,

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[David Maxwell](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

March 11, 2019 11:20PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 197

Me too. I live 5 miles away from a fish plant. The only reason I never pursued this myself was that I was concerned about the smell, (I don't care, but my neighbours, (right wing types), very probably would), and attracting things like raccoons, (of which we already have a considerable number.) (And, by an old man's flight of ideas, did you know that a 1 ft. high, 2 wire fence connected to an electric fence charger is absolutely protective of your fruit crop from the raccoons? They can't jump over it, and their delicate little hands are excellent conductors when they try to climb over it. I confess that I derive a perverse satisfaction from the banshee screams they let out the first night they come around, never to be repeated. (They aren't dumb, and they learn very quickly))

[Broomholm Orchard](#)

Zone 5b in Nova Scotia

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[Joanne Corkum](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

April 23, 2019 05:40PM

Registered: 8 years ago

Posts: 34

Just gearing up for this season's spraying. Have to get some more liquid fish - have been using Gardener's Dream from PEI, Canada....not sure of the fish species.

We are going to buy some bulk blackstrap molasses from agsolcanada.com and I see they have liquid fish as well.

What are your thoughts on this product?

[\[www.agsolcanada.com\]](http://www.agsolcanada.com)

Thanks

Joanne

G2V Farm

Zone 5B/6

Gaspereau Valley, Nova Scotia

Canada

[Reply Quote](#)

[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

April 23, 2019 05:49PM

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

The quick way to affirm the integrity of a fish hydrolysate product is to look at the N-P-K numbers on the label. The first number is nitrogen. If this is a 2 or a 3, you're golden. Up that to 4 or 5, it's fish emulsion. Up that even more and the "fish" is spiked with synthetic nitrate.

Agricultural Solutions offers many fine products for Canadian growers.

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

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[Brandt Schisler](#)

[Re: liquid fish sourcing](#)

February 14, 2021 08:12PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 28

I have used Organic Gem and liked it, have just received a 275 tote from Schafer's since they are close to me here in the midwest. Looking forward to seeing how it performs.

There is a row crop farmer nearby that sent me some information on some fish hydrolysate from a company called TNT farming solutions. The product is called High Energy Fish, it is OMRI listed and has a NPK of 2-3-0. It comes from whole saltwater salmon and is 28% acetic acid so if you spray high volumes it can burn the plants. What confuses me is he says the product is like water due to the quality of the fermentation process that breaks down all bones, scales, etc. They also say you cannot spray during pollination or fruit set. However, he swears by it and has shown me his positive results since he started using it.

I guess my questions/thoughts would for someone who has a deeper knowledge on this matter take a look at this product and explain how it differs from all the other hydrolysate products and perhaps why they claim to be better than the rest?

Link: [\[www.tntfarmingsolutions.com\]](http://www.tntfarmingsolutions.com)

Brandt Schisler

Hickory Ridge Orchard

Zone 6b in Missouri

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