



Carp to Crop: Turning an invasive fish into natural fertiliser

WHY CARP TO CROC?

The problem

Carp are an invasive freshwater fish that cause serious damage to rivers and wetlands by:

- Stirring up sediments and increasing water turbidity
- Smothering aquatic plants
- Competing with native fish for food and habitat

Removing carp helps restore healthier waterways — but what we do with the fish after removal is just as important.

Why Carp to Croc matters

- Helps control invasive carp
- Reduces waste and disposal costs
- Supports healthier rivers
- Shows how local action can deliver real outcomes

The opportunity

Instead of sending carp to landfill, they can be reused as a natural, organic fertiliser.

This approach:

- Reduces waste
- Supports river and wetland restoration
- Returns nutrients back to the land
- Demonstrates circular economy in action

Carp to Croc turns an environmental problem into a practical solution.

Central
Coast
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What is carp fertiliser?

Carp fertiliser is made by fermenting chopped carp with natural sugars to produce a liquid fertiliser (often called fish hydrolysate).

It feeds plants and soil microbes.

What's in carp fertiliser?

Carp fertiliser naturally contains:

- **Nitrogen** – supports leafy growth
- **Phosphorus** – supports roots and flowering
- **Potassium** – improves plant health and resilience
- **Trace minerals and amino acids**
- **Natural oils** that support soil biology

HOW IT WORKS

Simple carp fertiliser recipe

Ingredients

- Chopped carp (whole fish or heads/guts)
- Brown sugar or molasses
- Nonchlorinated water (rainwater preferred)
- Lactobacillus / acidophilus probiotic powder (speeds up the fermentation process)

Basic ratio

- 3 parts carp
- 1 part sugar
- Add water to just cover the mixture

Method (summary)

1. Chop carp into small pieces
2. Mix carp, sugar and water in a container (20L bucket with lid),
3. Cover loosely (do not seal airtight)
4. Leave in the shade for 2–4 weeks, stirring occasionally
5. Dilute before use

How to use it

- **Always dilute before applying**
- Soil drench: 1 part fertiliser to 10 parts water
- Trees & revegetation: Apply diluted mix to soil around roots
- Compost activator: Apply directly to compost piles

Where it's useful

- Revegetation and restoration projects
- Gardens and lawns
- Tree planting
- Poor or sandy soils
- Compost systems

Important safety notes

- Do not apply directly to waterways
- Do not apply undiluted to plants
- Secure containers to avoid pests
- Follow local regulations for carp handling