“Urinating on your compost is not only fun, it’s good for your garden.”

If you can stand to alienate your neighbors, urinating on your compost can in fact be a boon to your garden plants.

The magic ingredient is nitrogen, from the urea found in urine. Nitrogen is a key nutrient for plants, promoting leafy green growth and the synthesis of plant proteins. Plants deficient in nitrogen will appear feeble and pale, with yellowing especially noticeable in the lower leaves. (Other nutrient deficiencies can cause similar symptoms, however, so you may want to confirm your suspicions with a soil test.)

If you don’t have a compost pile, don’t despair. Urinating directly on your garden confers the same benefits. But do try to aim for the soil . . . especially if the crop in question is meant to be eaten.

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