



AUGUST 2025

Welcome,

At a time when our world seems to be in a state bordering on chaos, it behoves us to take stock of “the bright side”. Our southern hemisphere winter is a fitting time to take a deep breath and give thanks to the bounty and vitality of nature, not least in our gardens and on our farms.

In gratitude for being alive on this glorious planet, it may be helpful to remind ourselves of Rudolf Steiner’s dictum: “The purpose of the physical world is to provide a context in which the free activity of the human self-consciousness can occur. Otherwise we would have been perpetually tied to the apron strings of the celestial hierarchy, perceiving the super-sensible in only a diffused, entranced, dream-like state.”

Keep warm and happy gardening.

John and Kaz

We are now a member of the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International (BFDI).

BFDI is a not for profit organisation based in Europe. Its primary goal is to add unity and support to the global biodynamic movement. Members of BFDI are from 50 countries around the world.

Biodynamic Agriculture Australia sought membership to:

- Share knowledge and engage more with global biodynamic farming and gardening experiences, and
- To draw upon international insights in contributing to a more collaborative biodynamic movement in Australia.

We are pleased to announce we have commenced with these initiatives and Peter Kearney (our Board Member) is the BFDI delegate for *Biodynamic Agriculture Australia* and Australasia.



We are standing at a threshold

Ueli Hurter, Co-leader of the Goetheanum Section for Agriculture Bulletin, July 2025.
Printed with permission.

The past decades have shaped the organic sector – through pioneering spirit and innovation. But this phase of building up now seems to be coming to an end. What comes next?

Ueli Hurter looks back in his current article in *info3 magazine*, dedicated to *personal and social growth*, at the developments of recent decades – and dares to look boldly ahead. He sees the biodynamic movement not in crisis, but in transition. And therein lies a great opportunity: for renewal, for a deeper relationship with nature – and for new forms of community. At the heart of his reflections are three impulses:

Personal relationship with nature: A central element of biodynamic agriculture is the conscious, exploratory relationship with the living world – addressing the soil, plants, and animals as a “you.” This personal, attentive perception can be a source of quality and insight.

Forming new communities: Farming enterprises are never isolated ventures. The connection with co-workers, partner farms, consumers, and also with spiritual impulses – all of this needs to be rethought, consciously shaped, and carried together.

Reshaping the economy: What we produce, process, trade – and how we do it – should be brought back into real encounter and responsibility. Farmers, producers, processors, traders, and consumers meet on equal footing. This can give rise to an associative, meaningful way of doing business that respects soil, people, and culture alike.

Ueli Hurter understands these impulses as an invitation to explore together. How can we revitalize the “rootstock” of the biodynamic movement? What forms and paths are needed to remain socially effective in today’s world?



Key biodynamic spray dates– August 2025

Soil sprays (Biodynamic: Horn Manure 500, Soil Activator, Manure Concentrate)

Descending Moon, August 5th – 19th

Atmospheric sprays (Biodynamic Horn Silica 501, Equisetum 508, Casuarina):

Ascending Moon, August 1st – August 5th & August 19th – September 2nd

Moon opposition Saturn: August 26th, 1.00am

Sequential spraying dates to encourage rain: August 12th – 14th

The Antipodean Astro Calendar has more information and can be found on our website.
Now half price.

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The power of herbs

Kaz Selbie

Diversity and balance are vital for a healthy garden and farm and herbs help achieve this. They are delicious in our food and great for our health but also most valuable in our gardens. Herbs improve soil health and increase beneficial micro-organisms, allowing soil nutrients to be further available to surrounding plants.

Intermingled throughout the garden, herbs create a symbiotic relationship between plants which heightens the growth of both by increasing the available minerals in the root zone of their companions. AND lastly, their highly scented leaves and flowers confuse pests and attract predatory insects and birds.

[Click here to read more...](#)



Plaque on a path-side seat in Bielsdown Park, Dorrigo NSW

Never regret a day in your life

Good days give you happiness,

Bad days give you experience,

Worst days give you lessons,

And the best days give you memories.



Image is Pickett Hill, Valla, NSW by Kaz Selbie

Free humanity

Peter Tompkins, in *The Secret Life of Nature*, 1997, p. 139

Steiner shows in his *Occult Science: An Outline*, the goal of the world-creator powers with their extraordinarily complex hierarchy of spiritual beings is none other than the creation of humankind and the creation of an environment of ongoing evolution that can eventually help individual human beings to become free.

“Preparation for this development entailed enormous sacrificial work on the part of the hierarchical beings in the course of which they themselves attained a higher development.”

To Steiner the basic “spiritual substance” of the cosmos, his “world-ether,” is generated by the various states of consciousness of hierarchical beings from primordial spiritual “warmth”.

World-ether, as it radiates down to the earth from cosmic heights is, in its essence, a thought-forming power, a manifestation, says Steiner, of the consciousness of hierarchical beings in differing levels, there being nothing in the universe than consciousness.

Biodynamic Soil Activator

- a wonderful way to boost your garden, market garden, vineyard, orchard or farm
- particularly effective at remediating severely degraded or out-of-balance soil
- can be sprayed out monthly, but at least twice a year at active growing times, especially during drought

Also available as *Liquid Soil Activator*, which is pre-potentised requiring no stirring, only dilution.



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Borax as a homemade ant remedy

John Hodgkinson

Borax (sodium borate) can be an effective pesticide against most species of ants.

In combination with honey, it works well with sugar-loving ants, like small house ants and Argentine ants.

The basic remedy is half a cup honey and 1-2 teaspoons of borax, mixed together thoroughly and placed in bottle caps or enclosed bait stations out of reach of pets and children.

Red fire ants prefer protein and grease over sugar, so substitute peanut butter for honey in the above recipe.

Borax is not an ideal pesticide for fire ants, so it's better to go the "official" route, and call in the eradication experts who will only use synthetic/growth-regulating baits.

Warning: using a homeopathic fire ant pepper is an "unofficial" alternative, may not work in every situation and breaks the mandatory notification law!

The Delectable Garden

BIODYNAMIC HOMEOPATHICS

Exciting
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Rats; Mice; Fox; Rabbit; Cat; Cane Toad; Cockroach;
Brushtail and Ringtail Possum; Nutgrass; Singapore Daisy; Slugs;
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Available in 50ml and 200ml bottles

Your problem NOT on the list?

Peppers also made to order!

Contact Rohanne to discuss: **0418983203**

r.young@thedelectablegarden.com.au



Weeds – deep, wild nutrition and medicine

Kate Martignier, arealgreenlife.com [This was first published in *Between the Leaves* September 2024]

Over time, wild edibles (weeds) can help us build deep health and resilience, offering a spectrum of nutrition that no supermarket shelf or bottle of pills can ever provide -- and weeds are free! Here are six that grow almost everywhere.

Our ancestors were using wild edible plants (weeds) for food and medicine tens of thousands of years before we began to domesticate the plants found in supermarkets today. Yes, many of the same weeds we see around us now have been accompanying us all that time.

We've developed domesticated plants for sweetness, appearance, volume, and keeping ability, and in the process we've bred all the vigour and tenacity out of them. Wild edibles, in contrast, are still wild and complex and full of real nutrition -- vitamins, minerals, and healing compounds that our bodies can easily absorb and that no supermarket shelf or bottle of pills can ever provide and weeds are free!

This post lists some edible weeds that you're likely very familiar with¹ and some of their uses as food and medicine. It's intended as a prompt to get to know the weeds around you, but not as advice or instruction.

[Click here to learn more](#)



[Astro Calendar now half price at \\$22](#)

[An excellent planting guide for the Southern Hemisphere](#)

[Click on picture to learn more](#)



Gladden hearts with your garden

Have you got a special place in your garden/property that makes you feel good? We would love to see it! Use your phone camera to capture and email us your image and a brief description (no more than 20 words) to share with fellow BtLers. Unfortunately, not all submissions can be published.

Let your garden speak, by capturing its magic, whether spontaneously or randomly; your “happy spot”; a secluded corner, dell or alcove; special flower(s), plants, garden bed(s), crops, products; a scene with your pet animal or bird; or even your idiosyncratic piece of garden or farm infrastructure.

Don't be constrained by biodynamic rigour – let your roving and uncritical eye choose a scene which lifts the spirits, yours and the viewers'.

Contextualise your photo(s), write a caption (approximately 20 words), and let it be free to evoke feelings of delight and even awe!

Please submit your JPG image/s to bdnewsleaf@biodynamics.net.au

Let's liven up this great little newsletter with your contribution(s)!

Here's our first contribution from our Editor, Kaz Selbie.



The images are of my Australian native plant **Hardenbergia**, who makes me smile. Thriving in part shade on my back deck she rapidly, happily grew and is now in full bloom. Eventually I will prune back and transplant along my fence-line to enjoy her beauty for years to come.



Below image > 12 months ago she was a mere 30cm tall.





NATURE ON TAP

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