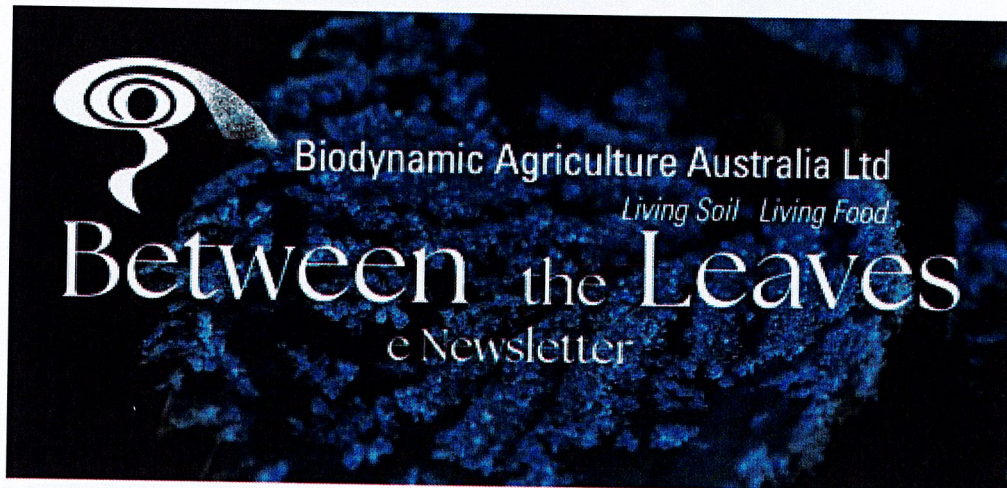


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AUGUST 2024



Hello everyone,

We hope that your winter activities in the garden or wherever you are growing food, fibre or even flowers, are energetic and satisfying. Whatever you are doing, strenuous or not in this period of the year, it sure is a relief to be doing them in cool to cold weather!

Recent clear skies with an ascended Moon have invited us to contemplate cosmic effects on our domain. This is surely a wonderful blessing of winter.

Don't forget that any biodynamic initiatives you might implement at this time, will manifest brilliantly when the soil warms up in coming weeks. Do consider putting out a soil spray as soon as signs of seasonal "awakening" appear.

Oh, and make sure that any pruning you carry out is accompanied by pasting on the cut ends and over as much of the lower tree or vine structure as possible.

Best wishes,

Kaz and John



International vegetable of the year - purple sweet potatoes pack a punch with higher antioxidants

Eliza Berlage, ABC Rural, 18.6.24 (reprinted with thanks)

While more than half of all Australian households buy sweet potatoes, the range of varieties and colours available other than the popular gold version may come as a surprise to some.

Last year 64% of Australian households purchased sweet potato and consumed 3.15kgs per capita, according to grower research company *Hort Innovation*.

The purple sweet potato has since stolen the spotlight, being named international vegetable of the year for 2024 due to its nutritional benefits.

Clinical nutritionist Belinda Martinella said the violet vegetable's colour was due to higher levels of anthocyanins, or antioxidants, than other varieties.

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



Farm Yarn's | Meet The Koenig's - Biodynamic potato farmers from NSW, Australia

Farmers Footprint 8.5.24 (reprinted with thanks)

Beatrice and Tobias Koenig use the principles of regenerative agriculture to grow more than nine different varieties of potatoes, as well as holistically graze their herd of Angus. They believe that the key to promoting more sustainable agriculture is by educating the children and encouraging them to ask the right questions about where their food comes from.

[Click here to view the video](#)



This is an exceptional pinot noir

Max Allen, Australian Financial Review, 20.6.24 (reprinted with kind permission)

John Nagorcky moved to biodynamic viticulture in 1999 and these three wines from his Hochkirch label in southwest Victoria are a testament to his methods.

It's Sunday morning and there are plenty of cars parked outside the striking red-brick church in Tarrington, a small town in southwest Victoria. Constructed in the 1920s in a Gothic revival style, the church's tall, narrow steeple towers over the surrounding wide flat farming landscape.

Ever since Lutheran migrants from Saxony settled in the area in the 1860s there has been a place of worship of some kind here – first built of wood, then bluestone, now brick. In the 19th century, and until the First World War, the town was known as Hochkirch. High church.

[Click more of article here...](#)

[Read about our Viticulture program](#)



Copper and bronze in the soil

John Hodgkinson

Ever since I read Victor Schaubenger many years ago, I have advocated the use of copper and bronze rather than iron and steel in working the soil. His work showed that iron and steel somehow degrade soil fertility, and that copper (thus also bronze, the alloy of copper and tin, for greater durability) enlivens it. Iron is magnetic and copper is electrically conductive. Whereas iron tools disturb the soil magnetism, copper assists the flow of Earth energies to nourish the plants.

Described variously as 'fairy friendly' and 'sliding easily into the soil' bronze garden implements are a delight to use, if a tad expensive. It is claimed that using bronze in the garden not only maintains energetic harmony, but also repels snails and slugs, whose blood is based on copper, not iron. Just google bronze garden tools.

Biodynamic Paste

Now is the time to order your Tree Paste for all your winter pruning...

A nourishing, healing concentrate, made for use on trees, shrubs, vines and roses.

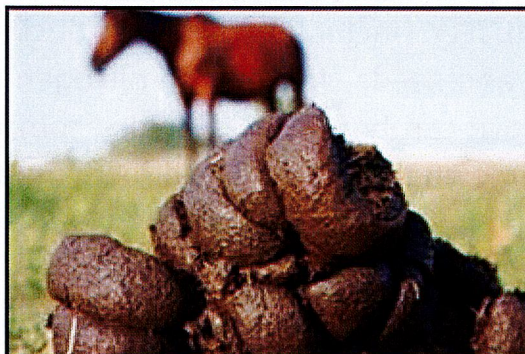
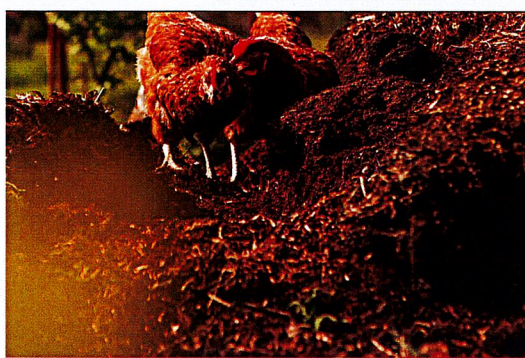


dilutes to double the volume and more

- ▶ **discourages the growth of fungal disease, lichen and scale**
- ▶ **deters harmful insects, including borers, from damaging the trunk or sheltering amongst crevices in bark**
- ▶ **reduces transplant shock**
- ▶ **promotes wound healing**
- ▶ **use as a dip for bare rooted plants to stimulate root growth and enable speedy establishment**



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Which manure should I use?

John Hodgkinson

As a gardener or farmer, when we have a choice in selecting a manure, there are some basics to keep in mind. Firstly, it's best to avoid using fresh manure in the garden or fields. It's more beneficial to compost manure, either alone or with added plant matter, sea minerals, clay, rock dust, etc. I've always tried to source and mix various animal manures, as I find the combination beneficial.

COW: The best all-rounder for crops. It's relatively low in nitrogen, but it's the queen of manures as it's imbued with life in the form of diverse bacteria and fungi-promoting enzymes. Old cow patties can be added to soil without much detriment, but fresh manure should be avoided.

One of the best uses of cow manure apart from an ingredient of compost, is to make manure concentrate (**aka Cow Pat Pit or Barrel Compost**). This can be made relatively easily in a pit or half-barrel, with the addition of the biodynamic compost preparations, crushed eggshells and basalt dust. [Read more...](#)

HORSE: Best for leafy vegetables. It's relatively high in nitrogen, heats up compost heaps significantly, and imparts a unique quality to a garden.

PIG: Best for root vegetables. It's relatively high in nitrogen but can be putrid and smelly, so it should go straight into compost heaps.

POULTRY (including chickens, ducks, turkeys, pet birds): Best for fruit and seeds. It's high in nitrogen and phosphorus. Fresh poultry manure can burn plants unless composted. Pelletized chicken manure is somewhat okay to use directly in soil but is better added to the compost heap.

SHEEP: Good for most vegetables. It has a similar nitrogen level to pig manure. If in original pellets, it's best to crush before mixing in soil. The older, the better, usually from under shearing sheds.

ALPACA: Best for leafy vegetables. It's very high in nitrogen as animals urinate on their dung heaps. It's easy to gather but can be moist and messy to handle. Best composted.

Biodynamically Composted Cow Manure

**A nutrient-rich slow
release fertiliser.**

- ▶ **Biodynamic composting has made complex nutrients readily available for plant growth and development.**
- ▶ **Spread and/or incorporate into gardens, pots or topsoil.**
- ▶ **For trees, vines, shrubs, flowers and vegetables.**



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Key biodynamic dates – August 2024

Soil sprays [Horn Manure (500), Soil Activator, Manure Concentrate]

Moon descending: 10th to 27th

Atmospheric and foliar sprays [Horn Silica (501), Vine and Tree Tonic]

Moon ascending: 2nd to 15th

Moon opposite Saturn: 7th, at 7.43pm

Full Moon: 20th, at 4.25am

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

Comfrey Liquid Manure and Nettle Liquid Manure

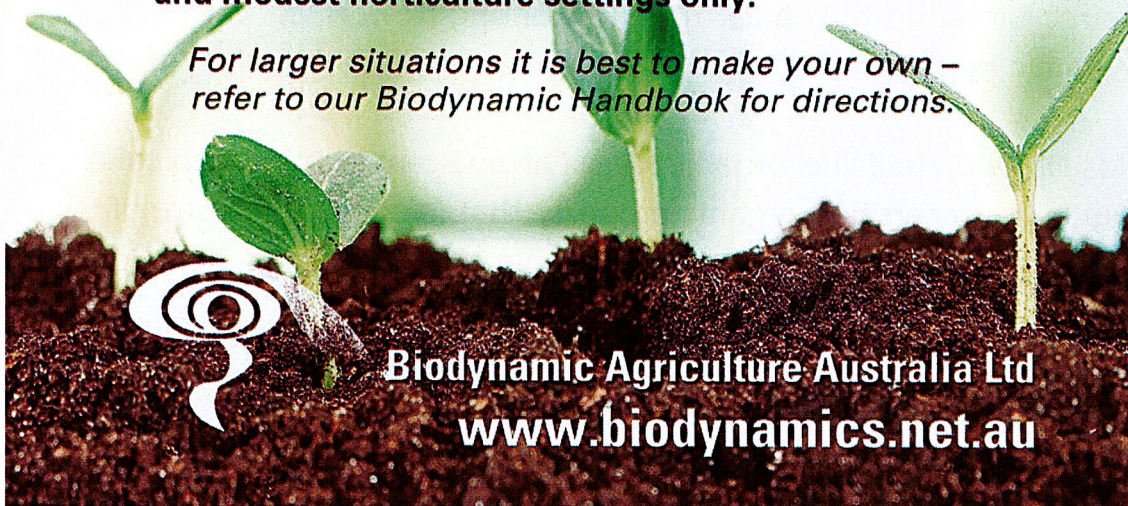


Two extremely important plant tonics and preventives for the garden, orchard, vineyard, market garden and farm.

Their potency is bolstered by addition of the biodynamic compost preparations 502-507 and the use of "structured water".

These products come in two sizes for small gardens and modest horticulture settings only.

For larger situations it is best to make your own – refer to our Biodynamic Handbook for directions.



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ADVERTISEMENT



Seeking farm team member for Goulds Natural Medicine Herb Farm

Are you a horticulturalist, experienced gardener, or farm hand with an interest in herbs and growing with organic and biodynamic methods?

Do you enjoy working hard and doing manual work both outdoors and indoors?

Do you want to develop your skills and participate in an innovative and diverse horticultural venture in a supportive environment?

We're recruiting now for a Farm Hand wanting to work on our biodynamic herb farm 25 minutes southwest of Hobart.

Goulds Natural Medicine Organic Herb Farm (Bronzewing Botanicals) is a 20 hectare certified organic property that includes 1 hectare of medicinal herbs in Allens Rivulet, Tasmania.

We are looking for someone to join our dedicated and hard-working farm team, an integral part of Goulds Natural Medicine, which is making a positive difference to the community and to natural medicine health care.

Please note this is a long-term position, not suitable for backpackers or casual workers

To learn more about Goulds Natural Medicine and the Herb Farm, **please click [HERE](#)**

For the Full Position Description and to place an Application, **please** **click** [HERE](#)



Got a biodynamic story to tell?

We're all ears for your biodynamic tales! Whether you're exploring the idea or just starting, we're excited to learn about your hurdles and triumphs.

At Biodynamic Agriculture, our team is your support system, enthusiastically backing gardeners and farmers seeking more from their lands. Share your story with us, and in return, we'll send you a free sample of our Soil Activator.

We're eagerly waiting to hear from you!

Please email: bdnewsleaf@biodynamics.net.au



Thanks for reading our newsletter

We're on a mission to encourage and inspire you further in biodynamics. Our online newsletter gives you a small window of many wonderful biodynamic articles and information we share in our *News Leaf* journal sent to members every season.

Become a member and receive:

- Benefits on products and workshops
- Quarterly *News Leaf* journal full of biodynamic stories and information
- Biodynamic Handbook - everything you need to know
- Sample of Biodynamic Soil Activator with instructions
- Encouragement, motivation, guidance and support

Your membership assists us to create, share and promote everything biodynamic. It supports our not-for-profit organisation in making preparations and products, giving education, sharing information and spreading the good word. We are on this biodynamic journey together and shared experiences are invaluable.

[Click here to view our products range](#)

If you need any help our team are here for you Monday and Tuesday 9am-3pm and Thursday 9am-12.30pm.

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Please help spread the good word by sharing our newsletter with colleagues, friends and family and please [LIKE and FOLLOW us on Facebook and Instagram](#)

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