

Between the Leaves, the monthly newsletter from
Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

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NOVEMBER 2023



Hello Everyone,

Deciding which material to put into this newsletter or our quarterly *News Leaf* poses a question: "If an article is worth keeping by a reader for future reference, should it only appear in "hard copy" – *News Leaf*?" The simple answer has been: "If it's that good, put it in both!" Because there are only 700 *News Leaf* recipients, but over 8,000 *BtL* subscribers.

Such a piece is the second item in this edition of *BtL*, an academic paper by Anna Pigott, titled *Hocus Pocus? Spirituality and soil care in biodynamic agriculture*. This is an outstanding piece of biodynamic-relevant enquiry, as you will see immediately when you read its *Abstract*, following the Goethe *Nature* piece.

One of the most difficult questions to answer in biodynamics is "What is biodynamics?" closely followed by "Is it science or is it faith?" Anna's paper tackles these questions and more in a most eloquent and insightful way, as we're sure you will find out when you click to read on.

We hope the current drought in parts of eastern Australia ends soon, but not with a deluge, thanks. Two local sprayouts of the Rain Plus Kit sequence near Bellingen on the September Full Moon failed to result in rainfall, or in nature's time, because we are getting rain now.

Here's hoping that you are blessed with good growing conditions as summer approaches.

Kaz and John

Image: Mango trees around the east coast of NSW and QLD are flowering profusely so we are looking forward to a bumper crop this year.

How do you care for your mango tree?



Nature

Goethe

Nature! We are surrounded by her and locked in her clasp: powerless to leave her, and powerless to come closer to her. Unasked and unwarned she takes us up into the whirl of her dance, and hurries on with us till we are weary and fall from her arms.

She creates new forms without end: what exists now, never was before; what was, comes not again; all is new and yet always the old.

We live in the midst of her and are strangers. She speaks to us unceasingly and betrays not her secret. We are always influencing her and yet can do her no violence.

Individuality seems to be all her aim, and she cares nought for individuals. She is always building and always destroying, and her workshop is not to be approached.

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Hocus pocus? Spirituality and soil care in biodynamic agriculture

Anna Pigott, Swansea University, UK, reprinted with thanks

[Here's a wonderful academic romp into biodynamics! Good luck with some of the phraseology and such words as "ontology", "poietic" (related to productive, formative) and "agental" - Ed]

Abstract

In this article, I participate in efforts to re-imagine soils as lively, complex, more-than-human ecologies, by turning to the largely sidestepped subject of spirituality in agriculture. Spiritual knowledge practices rarely sit comfortably alongside technoscientific, productivist accounts of soil health, and yet they can re-configure how soils are conceptualised and managed, with implications for relationships of care. Drawing on an extended period of learning with a Community Supported Agriculture project in south Wales, the article explores how care is cultivated through a non-conventional method of farming known as biodynamics, which incorporates astrological and spiritual principles. I suggest that biodynamic narratives and rituals encourage attentiveness to more-than-human agency and energy, to depth (not only underground but also above-ground influences of the air and celestial bodies), and to reciprocity between soil biota and humans. Biodynamic practices also make space for mystery, thereby resisting drives to measure and map, and offering possibilities for disrupting anthropocentric approaches to soil care. However, the example presented here also highlights how,

despite biodynamic's growing popularity, its spiritual elements have a tendency to be kept quiet, their presence sidelined by more familiar, secular, narratives. Nonetheless, I contend that if effective soil care demands more diverse knowledge practices than those that are currently obliterating critical soil communities at an alarming rate, then there can be much to learn from a touch of magic.

Read more...



Why we try to fix other people and what might happen if we didn't

Kate @ [ARealGreenLife.com](https://arealgreenlife.com), reprinted with kind permission.

"Kate writes at [ARealGreenLife.com](https://arealgreenlife.com) about personal skills for deep healing and practical skills for sustainable living."

Image above: Johnny's pic from Pixabay 1920

It's uncomfortable to be around someone who is suffering because it wakes up all that's untended to within our own selves. We can't stand that, so we hurry to put a band aid over whatever is hurting in the other person, to quiet things down again, so we can get back to pretending we're fine.

A fix... any fix

When someone we care about is suffering or struggling, it's SO tempting to swoop in and apply a fix. Say something, do something, anything to stop the pain -- theirs, and the corresponding discomfort that their pain evokes in us.

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Five vegetables even a beginner can grow

[read more...](#)

Biodynamic Liquid Soil Activator (LSA)

A potent living biodynamic soil spray that brings a healthy balance to the soil.

Contains biodynamic preparations: (500-508)

No stirring required – just dilute and apply.

USES

Broadacre

- pastures and crops, as both a soil and foliar spray
- via stock – pour into water troughs at recommended dilution so that stock can spread over large and/or inaccessible areas

Gardens and Market Gardens

- as a soil spray prior to planting seedlings
- for vegetable gardens, flower beds and pot plants
- for green manure crops to aid breakdown when turned-in
- as a seed bath or root dip before transplanting
- add to liquid fertilisers such as biodynamic fish or seaweed concentrate
- add to water used in compost making
- add to septic tanks and composting toilets to cancel odours and improve microbial breakdown
- add to watering can and sprinkled over worm farm or home composting container

DILUTION [dilution ratio: 1:100]

1 litre LSA in 100 litres water *is sufficient for 3ha*

330ml LSA in 33 litres water *is sufficient for 1ha*

100ml LSA in 10 litres water *is sufficient for 3000m²*

30ml LSA in 3 litres water *is sufficient for 1000m²*
(quarter acre)

METHOD

Shake LSA container, then add appropriate volume for the correct dilution, into sprayer/spray tank water. Fish/seaweed products can be added at the same time and sprayed out together with LSA. Spray out in droplets for soil spray; mist for foliar spray. It is best to spray after about 3pm or after the heat of the day has subsided.

FREQUENCY

Spray out monthly but at least twice a year at active growing times, especially after rain or during drought.

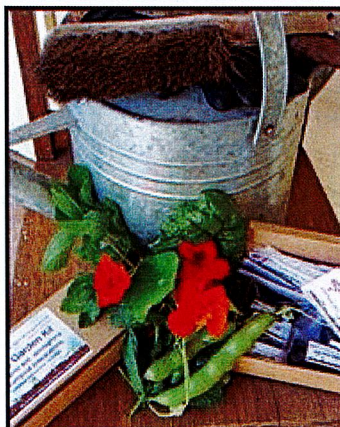
STORAGE

Store in a cool dry dark place as far away as possible from electrical fields and appliances.



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Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Happy holidays and biodynamic gardening and farming.

Our office will be closed from

**Thursday 14 December 2023 and reopen on Monday
15 January 2024.**

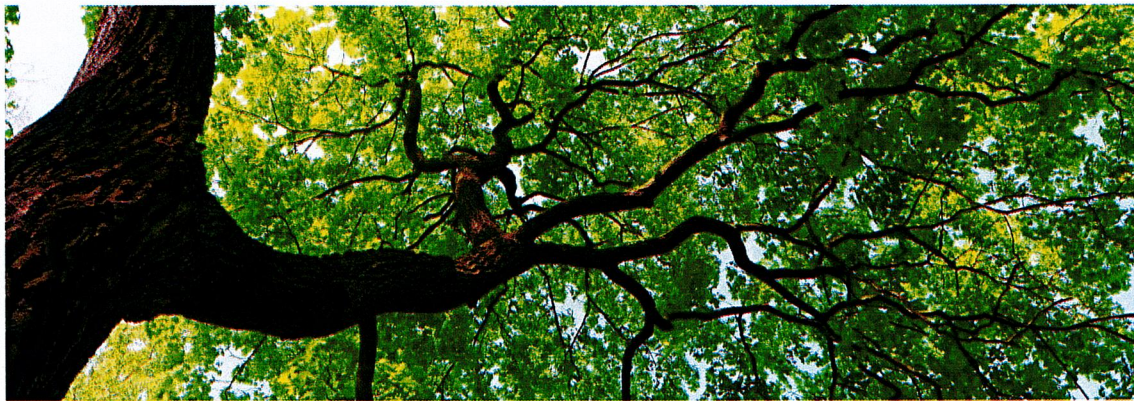
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to allow for a busy delivery period.



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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 snippet of the many wonderful biodynamic articles and information we share in our *News Leaf* journal sent to members every season.

Become a member to receive:

- Benefits on products and workshops - view our products below

- Quarterly *News Leaf* coloured journal full of stories, articles and other valuable information
- Biodynamic Handbook - everything you need to know to get started
- 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, so we would love to hear your stories to share with members.

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

Office Hours: Mon-Tues 9am-3pm & Thurs 9am-12.30pm
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