

Between the Leaves, the monthly newsletter from
Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

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OCTOBER 2023



Hello everyone,

It's official, El Nino is here. Take note of Shane Joyce's piece below, "Hello Rain" and consider your own preparations for the likely low rainfall period ahead.

Also consider our Rain Plus kit which covers 1ha and in an urban setting it can be sprayed over your surrounding area.

The horn manure retrieval at the office has been brilliant again this year for both volunteering and the high quality of 500.

Good growing and may spring's abundance continue through the season.

Kaz and John

PS: The original artwork above is: ***Dandelion and Bee*** by ***Sophia Montefiore***. <http://www.sophia-art.site>



Hello rain!

Shane Joyce

I'm in a "preppers" mode. Yes, now that La Nina and the wet years are behind us, and all the predictions are for El Nino to take centre stage...I've moved into "Prepare for low rainfall years!" frame of mind.

So what does the proactive biodynamic farmer/gardener do to

prepare?

read more...





Spring

We celebrate spring's returning and the rejuvenation
of the natural world.

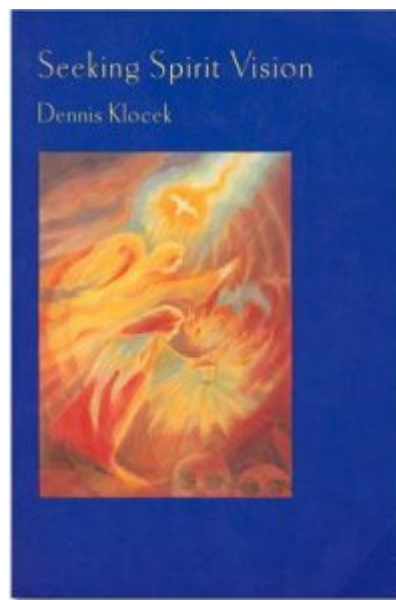
Let us be moved by this vast and gentle insistence that
goodness shall return,
that warmth and life shall succeed, and help us to understand
our place within this miracle.

Let us see that as a bird now builds its nest, bravely,
with bits and pieces, so we must build human faith.

It is a simple duty; it is the highest art;
it is a natural and vital role within the miracle of spring:
the creation of faith.

Amen.

Michael Leunig



The Abstract Predicament

Dennis Klocek, Seeking Spirit Vision, 1998, pp 33-34, with kind permission

The perception of beauty in nature is the grounding agent that allows the life of creativity pouring from the Godhead to reach our souls. This perception must be distilled, however, like a precious substance whose presence as a fragrance signals its own evaporation.

[read more...](#)



***Biodynamic Agriculture Australia supports the
The Josephine Porter Institute,***

our American sister biodynamic organisation.

They too are on a mission to heal the Earth through biodynamic preparations,
education and research,

to support all farmers, gardeners, and biodynamic enthusiasts
in their making and use of biodynamic preparations.

See their webpage to read interesting biodynamic information and articles.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Horn retrieval time

Over the last week we have been busy digging up our horns with the help of several wonderful volunteers. Huon and Wilany, our Prep Shed maestros have been leading the way, guiding participants in an informative and fun manner. A big thanks to everyone involved.

Fresh cow manure has been transforming in the horns underground for the last six months. Over this time it has turned into what is prosaically known as Horn Manure (500). It is a powerful soil activator helping root development and growth of the plant as well as humus formation.



Biodynamic Agriculture & Anthroposophy

Section for Agriculture, Goetheanum

Our gift for the 100th anniversary: free participation.

Through deepening into anthroposophy, biodynamic agriculture can be experienced in a truly fruitful way. Anthroposophy develops an

image of the human being, whereby the human being - completely connected with the soil, plants, animals and the climate - is able to penetrate nature in such a way that a personal relationship with the spiritual world of beings, which appears in it, can develop.

[read more....](#)



Bellinghen Spring Plant Fair

We had a great day at the recent Bellinghen Plant Fair on 9 September 2023. With so many diverse plant stalls, the focus was on natives and our environment. The image above shows Sid Hazell giving a biodynamic talk and demonstration for many interested people.

[For more information on the Bellinghen Plant Fair click here.](#)



Book reviews by Shane Joyce

Today I'm doing a little reading... well that's nothing new, as I read most every day! This week I received 2 books in the post.

Book 1: Tree Crops. A permanent Agriculture by J Russell Smith

Book 2: Restorative Agriculture. Real world permaculture for farmers by Mark Shepard.

Interestingly these books are 100 years apart! Interestingly Steiner's Agriculture Lecturers were 100 years ago come 2024!

Is there finally a "shift" happening in agriculture?

Next year marks 50 years for myself practicing regenerative agriculture!

Mark Shepard's book I highly recommend!

At New Forest Farm Mark has created a great model of permanent agriculture based on perennials. Yes perennials, not annual crops. He lays out clearly the destruction created by annual crops.

J Russel Smith, Fukuoka, & Mollinson were major influencers of Mark.

If I were asked to recommend just one book to every budding regenerative farmer/gardener, it would be restoration agriculture!

These books can be purchased online. Happy book shopping!



Google review

Would you like to have your say about Biodynamic Agriculture Australia via Google?

We would love to hear from you. Please click on the below link to share your feedback. Thanks

[Click here to have your say](#)



Rachel's Farm

This new film from Rachel Ward is an uplifting documentary following actor-director Rachel (*Beautiful Kate*) as she sets out to regenerate her northern NSW beef farm, with the help of experts and neighbours. It's an inspiring and empowering story.

The only suggestion we at Biodynamic Agriculture Australia make, is that Rachel should spray out Soil Activator over her acreage to even further empower her regenerative efforts.

[Click here to view](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

What are biodynamic peppers?

Biodynamic peppers are an organic, non-toxic method for controlling animals, weeds and insects that have become a pest. The peppers are created by burning the weed, insect or animal to create an ash. This ash is potentized using homeopathic procedures.

By creating an ash, the energy of the pest animal or plant is severed. This works on the principle that water creates life and fire extinguishes life.

How are peppers used?

The peppers are dispersed during the full moon by stirring 10 drops of the pepper into a bucket of rain water. The mixture is stirred for 10 minutes before being dispersed over the area where the animal or weed is to be controlled.

The peppers are very specific and only work to control the specific pest animal, insect or weed. This means separate peppers are required for each animal, plant or insect.

Can peppers be mixed together?

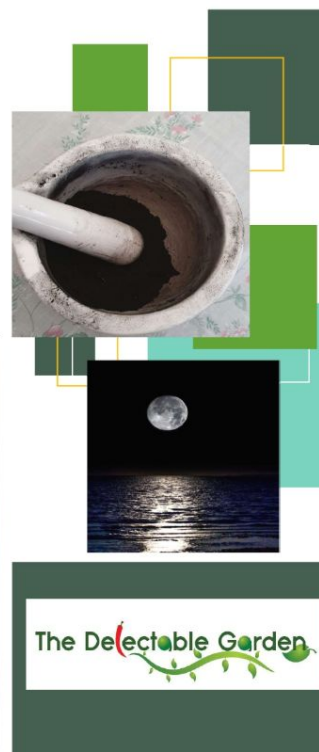
The peppers work by tuning in to the energy of the specific animal, plant or insect. It is recommended the peppers not be mixed, but be dispersed separately.

Peppers & Potions

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter from The Delectable Garden.

The newsletter provides an update on new biodynamic peppers that are available, as well as providing an update on enduring favourites such as rat and mouse peppers.

I'll provide feedback from biodynamic gardeners who've been using the peppers as well as hints, tips and other information on biodynamic peppers. We'll also discuss other organic potions, such as weed teas to help you in your gardening endeavours.



Biodynamic Peppers

The following peppers are available:

Insect Peppers:

Paper Wasp, 28 Spot Ladybeetle, Flea Beetle, Hard Scale, Bronze Citrus Bug, Green/Brown Grasshopper, Fruit fly

Animal and Bird Peppers:

Rat, Mouse, Ringtail Possum, Brushtail possum, Brush Turkey, Noisy Miner, Indian Myna, Silver Eye, Cane Toad, Crow, Corella, Cockatoo

Weed Peppers:

Commelina cyanea, Cobblers pegs, Velcro weed, Singapore Daisy, Oxalis (Pink flower), Nutgrass, Catsears

Diversity, balance and a healthy environment

According to Rudolph Steiner, the scientist who created biodynamics, all plants and animals are created equal. Each plant has a role to play in helping to manage the health of our soils and each animal and insect has an equal claim. It can often transpire that we have made the animal or weed into a pest through our own actions or inactions.

There is so much we don't know, especially with regard to plants, that it's not in our best interests to eliminate every species we find irritating or annoying. Biodynamics, through peppering, shows us a way that we can control species that have gotten out of hand and threaten the diversity, balance and health of the environment.

I'm having problems with a pest and they're not listed

Peppers can be created to help control most pest animal, weed or insect.

For more information or to discuss particular pest problems, please contact Rohanne Young through The Delectable Garden at www.thedelectablegarden.com.au or phone 0418983203.

"Controlling Pests Without Poisons!"

Can weeds and pests be controlled without using poisons?

Insects. YES!

Vermin. YES!

Weeds. YES!

Have you heard of homeopathy? It works by introducing small 'energetic signatures' to improve something, or to control and eliminate it.

Everything in life has a specific energy frequency. It's like tuning in to your favourite radio station. You only hear the broadcast you tuned in to.

Biodynamic peppers work the same way. They use these 'energetic' signatures in a homeopathic way to create the environment you want by tuning out the pests you don't want.

In other words... the pest doesn't feel welcome.

[Click here to download PDF copy](#)



Grow Well workshop series - online introduction

There is still (just) time to join the Women who Farm/Landcare workshop with Kim Deans. WwF has organised an amazing "Grow Well" series (currently you have to join the wait-list). Find out about both, at

<https://www.bellingenorganictea.com/women-who-farm>

Or contact: Jason John, Coordinator and Regenerative Farms,
Bellinger Landcare Inc, 0490 857 879

www.bellingerlandcare.org.au Find us on [FACEBOOK](#)



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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