



MAY 2026

Hello everyone,

We trust you have been busy with your autumn tasks, getting ready for the cold days ahead.

Liquid fuel prices have surged and many are endeavouring to find alternatives. See article below regarding one man's determination to go fossil free.

We are excited to introduce our new product - *Biodynamic Liquid Atmospheric Activator* (BLAA). See more information below.

During these challenging times when you are feeling flat and vulnerable, hold tight to the idea that things will improve and nothing stays the same. You have the power to make positive change. It's called "*meliorism*".

Best wishes,

John and Kaz



Meliorism

The belief that we can contribute to positive change and improve the world through acts of love, creativity, compassion, and kindness.



Key biodynamic spray dates

Moon opposition Saturn

May 26th, 11.10pm

Moon descending periods

[This is the recommended/usual soil spraying time, when the Moon's influence is working below the soil surface.]

May 6th – 19th

Moon ascending periods

May 19th – June 1st

Sequential spraying dates to encourage rain

[To encourage rain, consider buying a *Rain Plus Kit*. A series of four soil and atmospheric sprays are put out over three successive days when the Moon is in a water sign and preferably near Full Moon.]

May 3rd -5th and May 30th – June 2nd

Please allow seven days for postage.

Read more...



The 2026 Antipodean Astro Calendar

Discover the best times to plant and spray out preparations with the Brian Keats Antipodean Astro Calendar containing beneficial information and beautiful illustrations.

\$45 including postage and handling. Go to our webpage to learn more.



Biodynamic principles and practices

Biodynamic Association UK.

Biodynamics is a holistic, ecological, and ethical approach to farming, gardening, food, and nutrition.

Biodynamics is rooted in the work of philosopher and scientist Dr. Rudolf Steiner, whose 1924 lectures to farmers opened a new way to integrate scientific understanding with a recognition of spirit in nature.

Biodynamics has continued to develop and evolve since the 1920s through the collaboration of many farmers and researchers. Around the world, biodynamics is alive in thousands of thriving gardens, farms, vineyards, ranches, and orchards.

The principles and practices of biodynamics can be applied anywhere food is grown, with thoughtful adaptation to scale, landscape, climate, and culture.

Read more....

NEW PRODUCT



Biodynamic Liquid Atmospheric Activator (BLAA)

Our zero stirring, pre-potentised Biodynamic Liquid Atmospheric Activator consists of Horn Silica (501), Summer Horn Clay and Equisetum (508).



The Horn Silica (501) increases photosynthesis, root exudation, and dry matter weight, it also reduces insect and disease problems and improves brix and ripening.

The summer horn clay enhances sap flow and the equisetum balances moisture in the atmosphere minimising effects of fungal attack. Best used in a leaf sign (refer to the Astro Calendar and it can be used on its own prior to harvest and ripening.



We recommend two atmospheric sprays per year in spring and autumn

For best results use with Biodynamic Liquid Soil Activator



Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd

www.biodynamics.net.au

Living Soil Living Food



Urea fertilizers and their downsides

Keystone Bio-ag, April 2026.

<https://www.keystonebioag.com/article/urea-fertilizers-and-t...>

Nitrogen fertilizers are one of the most-used fertilizers in any commercial growing operation. For decades urea has been the go-to source of nitrogen for most growers. However, as input costs rise and soil health becomes a bigger concern, it is worth taking a hard look at what urea is actually doing to your crops, your soil, and your overall operation.

What are urea fertilizers?

Urea is a synthetic nitrogen fertilizer containing approximately 46% nitrogen by weight, making it the most concentrated dry nitrogen fertilizer on the market. It is produced industrially through the Haber-Bosch process, which combines atmospheric nitrogen with hydrogen derived from natural gas under high heat and pressure. Once applied to the soil, urea undergoes a chemical conversion called hydrolysis, breaking down into ammonia and carbon dioxide before the nitrogen becomes available for plant uptake.

Urea as a soil amendment vs a foliar

For this conversion we will primarily be referring to urea as a soil amendment for nitrogen boosts as opposed to a foliar application. Foliar applications of urea in the right amounts can be useful and helpful, but too much can be detrimental. Ideally, as regenerative growers, we want to rely on biology to provide the necessary nitrogen our crops need, but that doesn't happen overnight.



What is the real lowdown on nitrogen based fertilizers, e.g. urea, from a biodynamic perspective?

John Hodgkinson

From a biodynamic perspective, nitrogen-based synthetic fertilizers like **urea** are considered antithetical to the core goals of agriculture. Biodynamics seeks to treat the farm as a self-sustaining, living organism, whereas synthetic urea is seen as an "external, industrial input that causes dependency and suppresses the very soil life it should nourish".

Here is the "real lowdown" on nitrogen fertilizers from a biodynamic viewpoint:

The core problem: Death of soil life

Biodynamic agriculture relies on a healthy, active soil food web (bacteria, fungi, earthworms) to create humus and feed plants.

Read more...

Biodynamic Compost Enhancer Kit

**For use in
compost heaps and
bins, liquid manures
and worm farms.**



**Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd
www.biodynamics.net.au**



Farmer trying to go fossil fuel free

Nick Easen, *Wicked Leeks*, 12 March 2026. Republished with thanks.

Nick Easen catches up with the trailblazer who's looking to remove all hydrocarbons from his Cornish farm.

Stuart Oates is a seventh-generation farmer; his family have been at Rosuick Farm on the Lizard Peninsula since the 1700s. They went organic nearly 20 years ago, before it became popular and they've also had a camel trekking business. Going against the grain is in the Oates' blood. Now they're considering what fossil fuel-free farming might look like.

"Throughout my childhood we were always the weird family trying to do things differently. I think that's where a lot of farmers struggle, to be the odd ones out... but not us," smiles Stuart.

"When I started thinking about more sustainable farming and looking at the root cause of our environmental problems, as well as destructive food systems, intensive monocultures,

or the way we rear animals, I found that the main problem was our dependency on fossil fuels.”

Today, it's extremely difficult for UK farmers to ditch petroleum completely. Yes, organic farming removes synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, many of which rely on hydrocarbons for their formulation. Then there's the fuel needed for machinery, the plastic wrap for bales, polytunnels and countless containers, removing fossil fuels from farms is no easy task.

[Read more....](#)



The biodynamic preparations

John Hodgkinson

In biodynamic practice there are specific remedies (not fertilizers) known as preparations. These range from the foundation preparation horn manure (500) to equisetum (508) and were developed by Rudolph Steiner in the 1920's. We will be describing these in this and future *Between the Leaves* newsletters.

Biodynamic Horn Manure (500)

Q: What is biodynamic horn manure?

A: Horn manure is a core soil preparation used in biodynamic farming and gardening, made as follows:

- packing fresh cow manure into cow horns; and
- burying them in soil over winter and retrieving in spring when the contents have transformed into a dark earthy substance with a sweet forest soil smell.

Q: What does biodynamic horn manure do?

A: A small quantity stirred vigorously in water, sprayed onto plants and soil as droplets in the afternoon, performs as follows:

- stimulates soil life (microorganisms, earthworms and fungi);
- improves soil structure and humus formation;
- enhances root growth and plant vitality; and
- strengthens the garden or farm's connection to natural and cosmic rhythms.

Q: How important is horn manure (500) in biodynamic practice?

A: It is most important as a foundation spray to stimulate the living components of the soil food web. It aids the generation of humus and retention of moisture in the soil.

For more information go to: <https://biodynamics.net.au/product/horn-manure-500/>

Biodynamic Horn Manure (500)

Biodynamic Horn Manure (500) is the original biodynamic soil spray and is made from fresh cow manure, buried in cow horns over winter. It is a powerful soil activator helping root development and growth of the plant as well as humus formation in the soil.



GREAT PRICES

SIZE	FARM	GARDEN	NON MEMBER
35g	\$5.50	\$7.70	\$11.55
85g/ha	\$11.55	\$16.20	\$24.25
1kg/ha	\$114.85	\$160.80	\$241.20
10kg/kg	\$108.25	\$151.55	\$227.30

We recommend two soil sprays per year.

For maximum biodynamic effect, use with atmospheric sprays



Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd

Living Soil Living Food

MEETING THE EARTH'S CHANGING NEEDS THROUGH GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS AND PRACTICES



2026 Conference of the Australian Branch of the Agriculture Section



For the second ABAS conference we have a variety of perspectives addressing the theme across practical and anthroposophical points of view. There will be a number of lectures on the theme, workshops on Goethean observation and much more. On the final morning there will be a garden tour and discussions on Biodynamics in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

We intend to open up the question of Spiritual Scientific research and encourage participants to both bring their Biodynamic research ideas to share and seek support. People will be invited to contribute to existing research projects. It will be a dynamic gathering.

Accommodation options include dormitory style sleeping on gym mats in classrooms (no charge), limited billeting (small charge), camping (no charge) or self organised Airbnb accommodation.

Our Keynote Speakers:

Ueli Hurter & Eduardo Ricon

Co-heads Agriculture Section
Goetheanum Switzerland - via video

Hamish Mackay

Broad acre farm adviser/educator

Rod Tomlinson

Steiner Education

Brian Keats

Creator of the Antipodean Astro-Calendar. BD preps making

Peter Kearney

BD gardening adviser/educator

Rob Birse

BD gardening adviser/educator

Tim Dunn

Steiner Education Consultant

Hendrik Dierich

BD research consultant/educator

Trevor Crowe

BD small farmer adviser/educator

Alan Drysdale

Steiner Education

Supported by a range of facilitators for:

- Eurythmy and speech
- Research workshops
- Small group discussions and Q&A
- Meditations
- Farm tours

10 -13 JULY 2026

SAMFORD VALLEY STEINER SCHOOL
5 Narrawa Rd, Wights Mountain QLD
40MINS FROM BRISBANE

Conference Cost:

Full conference (meals included)	\$450
3 days (meals not included)	\$250
Day rate (meals not included)	\$100
Half day (meals not included)	\$50

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/meeting-the-earth-s-changing-needs-through-growing-consciousness-and-practices>



Enquiries: ag.section.aust@gmail.com OR CONTACT MARK PATTON 0488 318 467



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***Biodynamic Handbook**
***advisory service and support**

Annual Membership
Farm \$130
Garden \$65



 **biodynamics.net.au**

Making water the catalyst

Kaz Selbie

Keep on stirring (excite, inspire, arouse strong emotions). Make a vortex (a spiral or circular motion, such as in whirlpools, tornadoes, or stirred liquid)

Water has energy and pliability.

Dance with the rhythm and sing your good intentions to allow manifestation.

You have the power and the will to make positive change.



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Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

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