



Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd

*Living Soil Living Food*

## **Equisetum arvense (Biodynamic preparation 508)**

Equisetum (508) spray preparation is used:

- Fresh (or as an 8x homeopathic)– as a morning atmospheric spray, during an ascending Moon period,or,
- Fermented – as an evening soil spray, during a descending Moon period

### **Fresh Equisetum**

Prevents fungal diseases. Use as a foliar spray to “toughen” plants. Clears botrytis, mildews on grapes. Can be used with horn silica (501) and summer horn clay.

Apply as required in persistent humid conditions conducive to fungal diseases. Use in conjunction with horn silica (501) as part of a total spray program.

*N.B. In Australia some biodynamic practitioners have had success using a Casuarina species instead of Equisetum arvense, and in some cases, combining the two. Often, fresh Equisetum and/or Casuarina tea is combined with horn silica (501) and summer horn clay, then stirred for one hour before spraying out, or added to a 501 stir for the last 20 minutes of stirring.*

For preventive use at Moon opposition Saturn.

### **Homeopathic Fresh Equisetum**

Being homeopathic, a 5ml vial will do up to 25ha added to whatever volume of water for the area.

If using on its own – no stirring is required.

Spray as a fine mist in the early morning.

### **How to make Fresh Equisetum**

***Dried Equisetum arvense makes Fresh Equisetum Tea*** – 100g makes 20 litres of concentrate – used as a morning atmospheric spray

For gardens and small areas:

- Use at the rate of 10g dried Equisetum (or 100g fresh Casuarina needles) per litre of water.
- Bring to boil in a stainless steel pot or saucepan and simmer for 20 minutes.
- Leave to cool and then strain.
- Use within a day at the rate of one litre of tea to 40 litres of water, aiming at one litre of Equisetum tea per ha.
- Spray as a fine mist in the early morning.

For larger areas:

- Put 100g of dried Equisetum or 1kg of fresh Casuarina needles into a 20 litre stainless steel pot and top up with water.
- Bring to a boil, then simmer for 20 minutes.
- Use at the rate of one litre of tea in 40 litres of water for acute fungal infestation (10 litres of Equisetum/Casuarina per ha).
- For preventative spray use one litre to 100 litres of water (one litre Equisetum/Casuarina tea per ha).
- Spray as a fine mist in the early morning.

The rate of water per hectare varies depending upon the situation – viticulturists cover the area more slowly and intensively compared to broadacre growers.

This preparation is used to:

- Enhance the flow of plant fluids, and;
- Prevent fungal infestation such as mildews, rusts and moulds.

## **Fermented**

### ***Fermented Equisetum 508 (and/or Casuarina) - homeopathic 8x – 5ml vial up to 25ha – evening soil spray***

This preparation is used for spraying on the soil, usually with horn manure (500). It encourages beneficial fungi to proliferate in the soil and grow large and long hyphae. This supports the distribution of nutrients through the soil for plant root uptake.

Application:

- Make up the fresh tea as above.
- Leave for about four days, unstrained and covered in a cool place. It can be used when it starts to develop mould on top, or it can be bottled and used when required.
- The same quantities apply as for the use of atmospheric sprays noted above i.e. one litre of tea to 40 litres of water per ha.
- Use on its own or with afternoon soil sprays.

One litre per ha is diluted in 20-40 litres of water.

Stir time (vortical stirring): 20 minutes