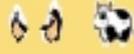


BD PREPARATIONS

The nine biodynamic preparations are at the heart of biodynamic farming / gardening.

Rudolf Steiner's Biodynamic Preparations		The eight BD preparations form the nucleus of the biodynamic concept. Their aim is to enrich and balance the farm/garden organism by uniting cosmic and terrestrial forces. The applications occurs in homeopathic dilutions and are not substitutes for compost and nutrient management.		
BD Prep	Source	How it works	How to make it	How to apply it
500 HORN MANURE	 Healthy, fresh cow manure. Cow horns (no bull horns)	Stimulates humus development and root growth on physical and metaphysical levels. During burial the highly active cow manure is turned into humus colloids rich in growth forces expressed as enzymes, natural hormones, bacteria, fungi & digestive juices.	Fill medium sized cowhorn (not bullhorns) with fresh dung. Best from local lactating cows. Bury horns (tips pointing up) in well drained, frost free fertile top soil in autumn. Leave in ground for six month. Lift in spring.	At least 2 times a year over growing season especially Spring & Autumn. Stir mixture into alternating clockwise and then anti-clockwise vortices for 1 hour. Change direction as soon as vortex reaches bottom of pail. Sprinkle droplets with brush around garden. Best time: late afternoon, early evening on moist (no heavy rain) days.
501 HORN SILICA	 Clear quartz crystal (silicon dioxide) is crushed into a very fine powder.	<i>'Everything active in silica-like substances contains forces that do not originate with the Earth, but rather with the so-called distant planets - Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. These planets are working through the siliceous to bring in the qualitative elements such as flavour, aroma and form.'</i> Rudolf Steiner in 'Agriculture'.	Crush clear quartz crystal. Grind very fine powder. Mix with spring or rainwater to a consistency of dough. Pack this mixture into cow horns. Bury in the ground during spring and summer. One horn produces 300-500 grams of 501, enough for 150 to 250 acres! Wear mask. Dangerous dust!	Lift in Autumn. Dry in sunlight. Store in glass jar. Keep in light, sunny position. Spraying method the same as for 500. Best time is just before sunrise. Spray at seeding stage and before harvest. Do not spray in strong wind. Misting spray into the air is preferable.
PREPARATIONS 502 to 507 are exclusively used to enhance biodynamic compost.				
502 Yarrow	 Flowers of <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<i>'...yarrow works in the compost heap in the same way as used medicinally in the human body: it can remedy the weaknesses of the astral (soul) body.'</i> Rudolf Steiner in 'Agriculture'.	Stuff flowers into a stag's bladder. Hang in a place exposed to the sun during summer. Take down in autumn and bury for the duration of the winter. Preparation has very strong radiating power, refreshes and quickens the soil so that the more distant cosmic substances -silicic acid, lead etc which come to the Earth in homeopathic quantities, are caught up and received.	INSERT INTO COMPOST PILE
503 German Chamomile	 Flowers of <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Chamomile connects with calcium that helps to ward off the harmful effects of fruiting too early and keeps the plant healthy. Also contains homeopathic sulphur.	Pick flowers in the morning after the sun has dried dew. Young flowers are best. Dry gently in indirect sunlight. Store them in a brown paper bag in airy, dark place. Stuff flowers into fresh cow's intestines with a funnel & a wooden stick. Don't compress the flowers. Create little sausages. Bury in autumn. Lift in spring. To avoid damage, place sausages into a terra cotta flowerpot (filled with soil).	
504 Stinging Nettle	 Whole plant of <i>Urtica dioica</i>	<i>'...The stinging nettle is the greatest benefactor of plant growth. It contains sulfur which plays an important part in assimilating and incorporating the spirital.'</i> Rudolf Steiner	The plants need to be harvested just before they flower. The whole plant is dried und stored until autumn in an unglazed earthenware pot. Bury the pot in healthy soil and leave it for a whole year, until the following autumn. Burying in peatmoss is also possible. After lifting the remains can be sieved and stored.	
505 Oak Bark	 Bark of <i>Quercus robur</i>	<i>'...Seventy-seven percent of oak bark substance consists of finely distributed calcium, representing a kind of intermediate product between the plant and the living earth element.'</i> Rudolf Steiner	Collect the oak bark. You do not need a great deal. Chop it until it is of crumb-like consistency. Put it into brain cavity of sheep, goat or cow skull. Bury in watery environment such as swamp, a wet spot below a dam or use a water barrel into which rotten vegetable material has been added. Bury in autumn and lift in spring. Dry in glass jar until smell has gone. Strengthens a plant against excessive growth forces e.g. fungal attacks	
506 Dandelion	 Flowers of <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	<i>'... dandelion is a tremendous asset because it mediates between the fine homeopathic distribution of silicic acid in the cosmos, and the silicic acid that is actually used over the whole region.'</i>	Pick flowers early in the morning when the flowers are no more than half open. Dry the flowers and store them in a brown paper bag in airy, dark place. Get hold of a mesentery (remove all fat first) and fold the dried flowers into it. Tie the package with string. Bury in autumn during descending moon phase. Lift in spring (same time as 500). Let the remains dry naturally and store in glass jar.	
507 Valerian	 Flowers of <i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	<i>Steiner describes the medicinal effect of phosphorus as strengthening the ego potential (plant archetype) of a plant and stimulating the phosphate activity in the soil. There is also a Saturn connection.</i>	Grind flowers in mortar and pestle. Dilute with water at 1:4 ratio. Place in loose lidded glass jar and leave in Sun light for a week before straining. Store in glass bottle. Let settle for a few days and strain. Fill into bottle with minimal air and store in dark place. Stir 10ml into 13 liters of rainwater. Sprinkle over compost heap.	
508 Equisetum	 Flowers of <i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Moderating Spray Complements 501 and works well in conjunction with 505 to help moderate rampant rotten growth.	Harvest time: spring. Dry the plant. Add 100g to 2 litres of water and bring to boil. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Let tea settle for a few days. Sprinkle or spray soil around plants as often as you like, especially at Full and New Moon.	

How to add preparation 503 - 508 to your compost: Take x gms of each preparation and place into ball of mature compost. Place this ball into midst of heap separate from each other.

What You Need

1. Water - best is clean spring water or rainwater at body temperature.
2. Bucket - stainless steel bucket, old copper or wooden barrel.
3. Brush - best to use a natural fiber brush, broom or handful of straw.
4. Location - The vortex symbolically draws cosmic and terrestrial energies into harmony. To allow the freest flow, find a location that is not roofed and as natural as possible.
5. Time - late afternoon and early evening is best.

Vortex Stirring



1. Start from the inside by evenly and gently stirring the water clockwise. Increase vigor and create a vortex to the bottom of the bucket. Continue to a count of 5 after full vortex has been achieved.
2. Now stir in the opposite (anti-clockwise) direction and after a short period of chaos a new vortex will be created. Again continue stirring to a count of 5 before changing direction again.
3. Continue the above 2 steps of alternating vortices for 1 hour for a well enlivened solution. In essence you are simulating life processes like the low and high pressure of weather systems. Chaos too is an integral part of life.

Casting 500



After stirring your 500 in the evening take the bucket and walk your garden systematically. Every few meters dip the brush into the blend and, with a broad swing, cast droplets across your land. A moist day is best as it will help the 500 to disperse and soak. Make sure to cover the entire areas with a light sprinkle. Appreciate that the 500 solution is not inert substance needing to be spread on every bit of soil but dynamic water that will vaporize that will circulate above the ground and even into the soil.

Casting 501

Whilst 500 enlivens the feminine pole of Earth, matter and darkness; 501 enhances the opposite masculine pole of Sun, form and light. The 501 is mixed and sprayed out into the air early in the air when the mist is rising or dew evaporating.

Preparations 502 - 507

The solid preparations 502-506 are used to organising the compost heap: Take x gms of each prep (the organs), place into ball of mature compost and insert into midst of heap taking care to keep the 5 preparations separate from each other. The liquid preparation 507 is sprayed over the heap after stirring. They can also be placed in liquid manures and any process where a digestion of organic materials is taking place.

