

# Soil

## Custodianship throughout the Year

HANS GUNTHER KERN

Living soils with their mineral constituents, living organisms and health-giving by-products have been used through the ages for many purposes of healing humans and animals.

### Just to mention a few:

*Clay packs and clay powder for detoxing heavy metals and hydrocarbons.*

*Penicillin discovered by Pasteur, used to control and kill deadly infections.*

*Soil micro-organisms, injected by Dr. Muller & Rusch<sup>1</sup> in patients to heal chronic illnesses; some were given soil to eat.*

*"Ionbiome", micro-organism cultures, millions of years old to restore diversity of the gut biome and treat chronic and mental illnesses and detox the body of glyphosate, developed by Dr Zach Bush<sup>2</sup>*

*"Eat Dirt", Dr Axe<sup>3</sup>, eat soil to improve IBS and other gut issues*

We know now that all multi-cellular higher organisms live and evolve through the presence of viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, organelles and mitochondria which make up 90-99% of our DNA and 50-60% of our cellular structure.

Each soil has its unique expression of diversity and combination of these soil organisms in its specific ecotope, which we call the "Archetypical Fertility",<sup>4</sup> which you can actually distinguish with your sense of smell.

I believe that it is in the biodynamic practitioner's interest to learn to understand their relationships to their environment so that through observation (using all our five senses), imagination, inspiration and intuition and sound practice like cultivation, application of biodynamic preparations, etc., we can ensure that the living soil can respond to the seasonal changes in its earthly and cosmic environment. This precious, humus rich layer of the earth then will be able once more to serve the higher

kingdoms of nature and support the most diverse flora and fauna to thrive. In turn they gift us humans cosmic and earthly wisdom through their presence in gardens and farms and as food and medicine, to evolve our own consciousness and conscience. This helps us to transform from singular entities of humans into the higher organism of humanity as one being. This way we will secure the natural evolution of our planet Earth, despite the advancements of the new "Singularity Project"<sup>5</sup> of "The Great Reset".<sup>6</sup>

We are told by David Attenborough that we need to rewind 50% of the Earth's surface and abandon farming. They are joined by South African-born restaurateur, chef, and entrepreneur Kimbal Musk, who promotes "Hyper-local" food production<sup>7</sup> in shipping containers in 100% isolated and AI controlled environments and artificial nano fertilizers, light recycled water and air conditioning.



1" of topsoil of grass sod 5" of subsoil with stones.



2-2.5" of topsoil and 2.5" of subsoil with undefined horizon after 8 months after rigging the soil putting grass to grass with wood ash and a .5" layer of fresh kitchen waste in between and then cutting vertical slits, filled with home made compost to transplant seedlings.

We have never been confronted with more confusing and contradictory statements.

At the same time, we know that this fragile membrane of the Earth's surface is called "Soil" (of which 80% has been destroyed by agrobusiness so far). It is the interface between the cosmic intelligence and new information streaming in, feeding our Earth with life energy and the blueprint for the future evolution. It harbours the intelligence to feed our physical and biological body, our soul and spirit. Nature takes 500 years to build an inch (2.5cm) topsoil.

In biodynamic gardening, in my own experience, we can create that in a year or less, depending how thoroughly we work with the biodynamic preparations. Amid the rising tide of soils being exposed to bio-chemical substances and electromagnetic forces and the great influx of radiation from the cosmos, we need to be more pro-active than ever before to nurture, protect and inform our soil, the diaphragm between the inner and outer World, with heightened awareness and activities with our biodynamic toolbox.

### How we nurture the soil throughout the year

#### All Saints / Samhain to Winter Solstice

This time is marked by the daylight getting very short and the weather turning gloomy and wet with low pressure fronts coming off the Atlantic into the British Isles. It is a time of year, when the life forces have withdrawn into the Earth and all leaves and seeds from the wild flora have fallen to the ground, creating a thick carpet in windblown sites and where the earthworms have a feast, pulling the leaves down into their tunnels.

These are metres deep, coated with their mucous, rich in base elements and depositing the nutrient and silica rich leaves in pockets along their tunnels. While doing all

that they throw up between 1-10kg/ m<sup>2</sup> wormcasts a year, concentrating five times nitrogen, seven times phosphorus and eleven times more potassium and other minerals, compared with the surrounding soil and rich in microbes.

This is the best time to apply compost and sow green manures to increase the humus content in the soil by feeding the soil life adequately.

Traditionally earthworms were most active between July and September. In the last years, they are increasingly active all year round. If it is true that they are the regulators of life forces, as Dr Rudolf Steiner pointed out, then we must have an influx of excessive life forces. From where do they originate? From the cosmos of course.

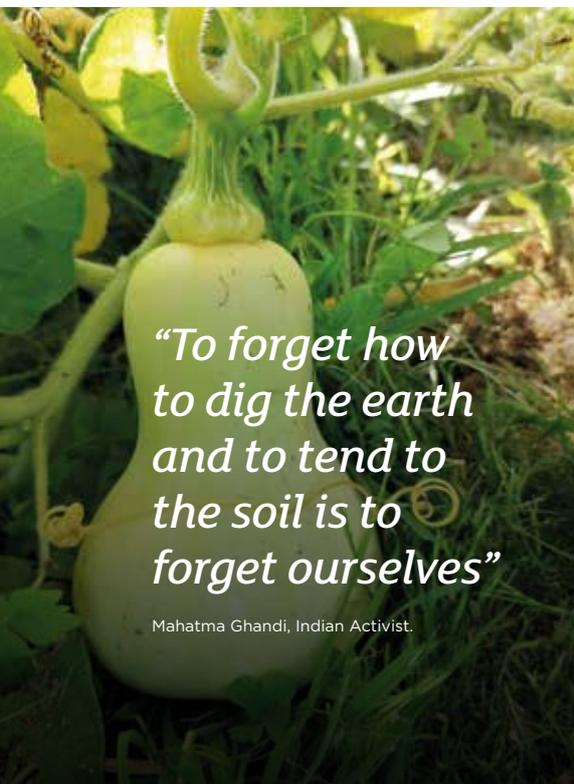
NASA has confirmed an increase of 40% of high energy particles hitting the Earth compared to 70 years ago, causing rapid mutations in viruses, bacteria and fungi. That means the metabolism of the soil has increased that much or more and it requires from us to make and apply more compost and sow more green manure crops, whenever the soil is free from cultivars.

I would also suggest to use the biodynamic soil activator preparation (horn manure preparation) at least on a monthly basis and each sowing and transplanting time to direct the soil life to symbiotically align with the new plants and their roots.

#### Winter Solstice to Candlemas / Imbolc

When converting a garden to the biodynamic approach of growing food, and particularly in heavier soil, when they are not covered with green manures or other permanent growth, it is advisable to open the soil to the influence of the freezing and thawing, drying and wetting. It is during this period that either by forking the soil over or pulling a cultivator or sow tooth / soil loosener through the soil, we allow the air to balance the pH, which tends to be the lowest at his time of year.

This will help to form new soil, improve its crumb structure for early spring sowings and release nutrients for the first growth. It will also expose soil born pests like slugs, snails, cutworm, wireworms and others to



*"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend to the soil is to forget ourselves"*

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Activist.

the elements and give the birds a feast, when they are most hungry.

**Candlemas / Imbolc to Spring Equinox**

In February the strongest crystallising forces stream in from the cosmos, expressed by severe frosts and the multitude of hexagonal shapes in snowflakes, ice flowers and hoar frost on any surface area. We can clearly experience and observe the formative forces working from the periphery and growing ice plants on the surface of the soil.

The more we expose the soil to these forces the stronger and healthier our cultivars will grow that year. One farmers' saying goes like this: "A harsh winter brings us a rich crop". It is as if the archetypal forms of the plants are laid down in the soil at this moment and accessed by the plants in spring.

At the end of this period we see traditionally the light spring rains moistening the soil to support the germination of seedlings. This is also the time to hoe in green manure plants and legumes, just as they start flowering at their height of nitrogen fixation.

Apply the Mäusdorfer Starter Preparation (Barrel Compost or Cow Pat Pit) to help the soil to absorb the sudden glut of green material for it to be incorporated better by the soil organisms.

Also apply wood ash or garden lime and half rotted compost to help the warming up of the soil and the breakdown of the green manure residues.

To warm the soil up, pass the hoe superficially over the soil (1-1.5 cm deep), and kill the germinating weed seeds. This releases not just the life force of the weed seedlings, but all the concentrated riches of enzymes, vitamins and nutrients, concentrated in a germinating seedling.

**Spring Equinox to Beltane / Workers Day**

April showers and strong winds stimulate the dynamic between drying and wetting, which stimulates soil life activity and the initial germination of larger seeds and rapid growth while the plants are young.

Now get ready the seed beds by hoeing and raking them with the moon in the constellation of the



5" of top soil and 1" of subsoil after hoeing two ridges together into mini garden beds 2 ft wide after 8 months and a solid cover of weeds in between crops.



2 beds hoed with compost in the back ground.

**Beltane / Workers Day to Summer Solstice**

This tends to be the most fertile time of the year, when all the elements are working in harmony and the soil organisms work overtime.

If you have a balanced soil fertility your crops will thrive now without falling prone to pests and diseases. If your plants slow down growing, have a well-rotted compost ready to top dress your cultivars when you notice cold spells as occur regularly around the 7-9 May called the "Ice Saints".

To avoid aphid, carrot and onion fly attacks have your nettle liquid manure and equisetum decoction ready to apply on the soil (slow acting) or as foliar spray (immediate results).

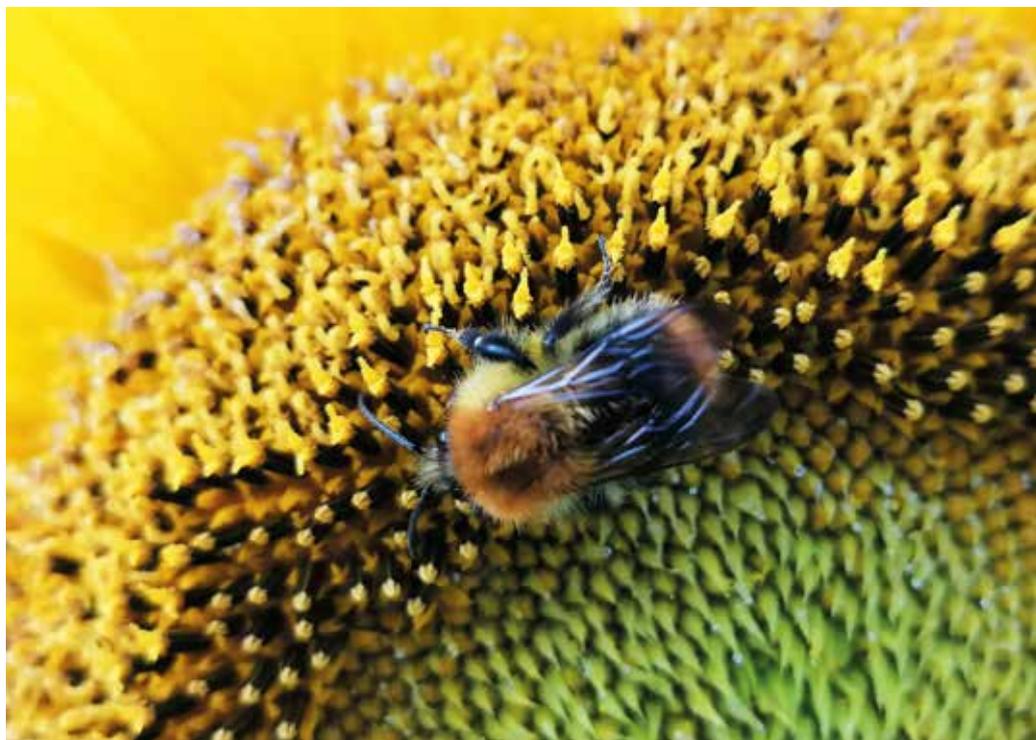
This is the time of year, when you have to start balancing the expansive and watery growth with the horn silica preparation (501). This will help the soil life to release more silica for the plants according to Dr Nicolaus Remer.<sup>4</sup>

The last few years we experienced a shift in the seasonal changes and went from wet spring weather into super dry summer weather

Lion to enhance the germination of weeds. After the germination of the weed seedlings we pass the sharp hoe over the bed, with the moon in the constellation of the Goat, to subdue further weed seed germination. The hoe is considered by farmers of old the best fertiliser besides snow and cold winters.

This way we obtain a clean sowing bed for main season root crops like onions, carrots, parsnips, etc., as these are slow germinating cultivars and are therefore more susceptible to competition from weeds.

Activate the soil life with the horn manure preparation (500) to support the rooting and germination of your seedlings.





without a transition. It is highly recommended to balance that with ample applications of the biodynamic soil activator (500).

Usually it is more advisable to mulch the garden around the Summer Solstice, but in the former case I would mulch as soon as there appears to be an extended drought period to prevent the soil from overheating, thus losing too much moisture which would affect the soil life.

### Summer Solstice to Lughnasadh / Lammas

The warmth and light forces are now penetrating deeply into the Earth, reflecting back the ripening forces from the depths of the mother rock. These quickly kill off root growth on arable fields and gardens.

In our gardens we have to balance these forces of maturation and death by ample irrigation, application of liquid manures (particularly in fruiting vegetables) and the application of the biodynamic soil activator (500) alternating it with the horn silica preparation.

### Lughnasadh / Lammas to Autumn Equinox

The beginning of August sees a drastic reduction in the night time temperatures and the length of daylight. Early crops will have been harvested by now and so fast growing and easily germinating mustard, spinach or phacelia green manures can be quickly sown. Other beds with long standing crops and heavy feeders might need to be top dressed once more with a half rotted compost.

With the summer thunderstorms and the slightly cooler soil conditions, the earthworms are getting active again and will benefit from that extra application of compost.

Throughout the summer months we can use the hoe for "irrigation". How so? If we hoe the garden beds superficially at dusk, we bring up moist soil, which with lower temperatures at night, can precipitate up to 2mm of dew.

Alternatively, intersow subterranean clover or white clover in between the rows of vegetables or grains to feed the soil life, to protect the soil from excess overheating and to preserve moisture.

### Autumn Equinox to All Souls / Samhain

Our soils are cooling down very rapidly now with cold fronts coming in and bringing usually lots of wind and rain fronts. Now it is high time to take off any mulch material and work the soil with the cultivator or sow tooth to loosen the soil and give it a good aeration, before it gets too wet.

The soils tend to be more acid in August and September than the months before and after.

### In conclusion

I believe that we need a growing community of eager investigators, researchers and explorers, who will engage in a thorough observation

of the soil conditions and plant communities throughout the year and correlate their growth to their response to the moon cycles and the circadian rhythm.

We would do well to journal about these observations.

We can then inform each other about our findings to empower our growing community of biodynamic custodians of Gaia.

I am convinced that we need to create land based, healing communities, who heal the land and themselves by reaching into the free supply of super natural forces available to keep at bay the interference and destruction by those technologies which are informed by subnatural laws and forces, as pointed out above.

Hans-Gunther Kern is a Course leader, consultant and lecturer for biodynamic agriculture / gardening, founder of Wholistic Living University and co founder of The Healing Matrix on Line, Independent Wellness Consultant with NIKKEN & dōTERRA, He is also a member of the Biodynamic Gardening Club team.



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Hans-Gunther Kern



@hansguntherkern



HGKern @HGwizzer

[hans-gunther@wholisticliving.co.uk](mailto:hans-gunther@wholisticliving.co.uk)