

How do you and your garden cope with this severe weather? More tips to help

Wherever you are on this usually green and luscious Island of Albion, as it used to be called by the Celts, you might be wondering what to do with this extremely challenging weather?

If you have had some rain in the recent 5 weeks, it was probably light and not substantial. If you are watering your garden, you will find that all you are doing is to keep the roots at the surface where you are applying water. Besides that, you maybe 'wasting' a precious substance we need to safeguard now, I believe, not knowing how long this drought will last. Some of you might see their heavy soil cracking and others with more sandy conditions witness their garden dry out exceedingly fast and your plants are probably wilting under the intense sun and high ultraviolet radiation at this time.

Some of you, like I did the other day, might have discovered leaves which are speckled with light dots. What is this symptom? I have noticed that phenomenon on and off since the 1980s, when it was very prominent. What I found out then is that radiation penetrates so deeply into the atmosphere that it transforms O₂ into O₃ (Ozone), which causes an inhibition of chlorophyll production. Which in turn weakens the plant even more in its metabolism, topped by the lack of water, which is essential for all living, biochemical, and chemical, processes in the plants and the soil.

On top of this impulse of dominant fire and air/light influence and a lack of the elements of earth and water we are getting closer to the summer solstice, when we have another aspect of increase in light/air forces. These three factors added together will lead for most plants to bolting (an early putting forth of stems to flower and seed) as the regenerative, vital growth forces are interrupted by the above.

Another symptom of this one-sidedness of the working of the elements has also been leading to the appearance of aphids on a lot of our fruit trees and other cultivars, (also on wild trees, all trees/plants are experiencing the one-sided aspects of the weather).

At least the nights are a few degrees warmer now which will help our tender annuals to make good use of this increase in overall temperature the next two weeks and the other vegetables and fruit trees will be able to metabolize all their assimilates at night – meaning less likelihood of aphid attacks.

We addressed the extreme weather conditions in the last post, and yet I'd **like to emphasize** from my experience that a **specific application of the field preparations and the valerian** preparation could see your crops through this difficult time.

How committed are you to your garden and plants to help and support them through this time? You need to be really in touch with the changing weather and it looks like this Sunday and Monday might be a good time to apply the horn manure preparation in the evening and again the following week, with chances of rain.

Here is a suggestion to experiment with:

- Spray horn manure and valerian preparation 3 consecutive days around sunset, preferably on a cloudy day (encourage deeper roots of cultivars).
- Spray horn manure preparation 3 consecutive days around sunset and follow with 3 days of spraying horn silica preparation ***also around sunset***(reverses habit of evaporation in plants).

I would be curious if any of you would dare to try this regime for turning around the challenge, making it into an opportunity to learn more about the specific use of biodynamic preparations to heal the life-body of the Earth? ***Do share your experiences with these or other methods on our BDGC Facebook Group or email them to the BDA Office (office@biodynamic.org.uk) and Jess can share them.***

If you want to take it a step further, try out stirring a small handful of clay powder into a bucket of luke-warm water and practice the old tradition of the Austrian farmers of ‘clay-toning’ (Tonsingen)[1].

Last, but not least, as mentioned last few times the **feldspar preparation** is and will play in my experience a great role in balancing the extremes of weather, and remember to pray for or visualize rain, when needed. (Felspar Prep available from Hans-Gunther Email)

I can’t emphasize enough that at these extreme times of change, these experiences we are confronting, are great opportunities to develop new approaches as biodynamic, innovative thinkers and carers to heal the Earth’s organism.

With blessings and thanks to these opportunities

Hans-Günther

[i] Tonsingen = <https://allaboutheaven.org/observations/tonsingen-003330/221>
picture of plants struggling with strong light and heat this June

