

# Benefits of Biodynamic Compost Preparations

## Part one of three

You might have had questions about why you might need to use the biodynamic compost preparations? Or you might have been using the biodynamic compost preparations and maybe asked yourself, what do they really contribute to my compost, my garden or even to my health?

I will share with you over **3 posts** the benefits of the biodynamic compost preparations, their best uses and benefits. I will also touch on the Mäusdorfer or Cow Pat Pit Preparation and where it might be most useful to employ it.

But let's start today with the specific benefits of the biodynamic compost preparations.

### **How could you be viewing the biodynamic compost preparations?**

Compare the use of healing herbs in the compost preparations with the herbs and spices we in cooking, which serve with their extra vitamins, trace elements, aromas, catalytic functions, to enhance all aspects of digestive and metabolic processes and other biochemical interaction to direct the breakdown and absorption of the foods they are used with.

**In the compost pile:** The decomposition process is slowed down and overheating is avoided. Thus the **gentle heat development** lasts longer in the pile. This encourages the invasion of the pile with **mycorrhiza**, which fix free ammonia, **spore forming bacteria**, which fix airborne Nitrogen and the re-population of the compost pile with **Colembola/Springtail** insects, which form the first stages of stable humus formation, which then is further elaborated by the **compost worm or wiggler and the earthworm**. In other words, the decomposition and composition process for the organic material, life processes and organisms in the compost pile are optimized.

*Experiments and observing the results of using biodynamic compost preparations show:*

#### **Compost:**

- Two compost boxes with identical material had a perforated wall in between them. One box had biodynamic preps, the other without. Almost all the compost worms migrated to the 'prepared' box (Grohne 1929 and Pfeiffer 1956).
- Increase of aerobic bacteria by 30-60 times the amount counted in the beginning of the process (Pfeiffer 1948 & Abele 1973).
- Inhibits mold forming and anaerobic organisms, which are poison for the roots of plants.
- Phosphorous content in biodynamic compost is 2% compared to the control 0.5-2%.

#### **Soil:**

- 10 times higher presence of Cyanocobalamin (Vit. B 12), which enhances nitrogen fixation of freely living bacteria and nodule bacteria on legumes.
- Biodynamically prepared farmyard manure enhances nodule formation in legumes, creates a deeper topsoil with increased crumb structure and dissolves soil compaction (Abele 1973,

Wistinghausen 1977 & Spieß 1978).

**In other experiments using the preparations results were as follows:**

- The cation exchange capacity is enhanced, i.e. the nutrient exchange (H. Heinze & E. Breda 1962).
- 10 months of composting of farmyard manure with biodynamic preparations showed increased levels of total nitrogen and humus content compared to 4 other methods of composting organic materials (Fürst 1966).
- Effects of compost preparations on earthworms: BD compost had increased population by 120%.
- Artificial fertilizer diminished presence of earthworms by 20% and control soil lost 40% of worms.
- A biodynamic compost retains more CO<sub>2</sub> (J. Bockemühl 1985).
- Seeds: In an experiment conventional seeds were soaked in biodynamic compost preparations. That soaking resulted in a 20% increase in germination rate over control group (1986 University of London).
- Enrichment of compost of **Nitrogen** at the end of stage 2 after 2-4 months: 1.7 % N compared with control 0.7 % due to less loss of Ammonia (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) (Koepf 1966).
- In another experiment the *Nitrogen content was raised from 1.5% to 3.73% by applying BD preparation 502 (Yarrow) in composting process (R. Steiner talks about the fact that Potassium is transmuted into Nitrogen by Yarrow preparation - this form of transmutation of chemical elements has been scientifically proven by nuclear scientist C.L. Kervran "Biological Transformations and others, like Hauschke, Herzele and Koliskos, Agriculture of Tomorrow")*.
- Soil accumulates 40% more air-nitrogen for Maize, compared to not applying this type of compost.
- Soil enriched with biodynamic compost produces more Vitamin B12 which was highest using composted cow manure.

**What about Plants? With biodynamic compost under observation**

- They demonstrated higher resistance to frost, droughts, heavy rains, winds, pests and diseases.
- Valerian preparation used together with the Chamomile preparation or in combination with horn manure preparation increased root depth of the central root.
- Oakbark preparation increases the feeder roots (horizontal roots) making more nutrients available and producing more contact with the microbiome of soil (Goldstein 1979).
- Soil enriched with biodynamic compost had larger root development and the legumes showed 16.2g nodule bacteria in 100 legumes compared to 9.5g in the control group (Pfeiffer 1956).

Who would have thought there are so many differences between organic and biodynamic compost? The other fact is about how well the micro- and macro-organism in the compost and in the soil responded to the biodynamic compost preparations.

Next time more about the other benefits

Happy composting

Hans-Günther



