

Benefits of Biodynamic Compost Preparations and Mäusdorfer Starter: Part 2 of 3

Last week we looked into the understanding of the far-reaching benefits for soils, plants and the composting process itself from applying biodynamic compost preparations.

This time I'd like to describe some of the benefits of using biodynamic preparations in the making and application of Mäusdorfer Starter (dried), also known as Cow Pat Pit, Barrel Compost and Maria Thun Preparation (all fresh).

But before that, here is a short description how this preparation can be made and used. (there have also been two articles in Star and Furrow in recent years on this preparation which are available.)

How to make the Cow Pat Pit Preparation (Barrel Compost)

- Use 50kg of fresh, firm cow manure (without Straw), 100 grams of dry very finely ground eggshells from organically/biodynamically raised chickens and 500 grams of Basalt rock powder.
- Mix and turn over the manure with ingredients above with a spade or shovel an entire hour to dynamize and activate the biochemical and subtle life processes and to unite different ingredients into a cohesive substance.
- Prepare a hole of 50 cm depth and 50 cm diameter in humus rich soil and line the bottom and sides with old biodynamic compost. Line the sides with birch or other branches, bricks, roof tiles, slates or one half of a bottomless barrel.
- Put half the cow manure mix into the hole and prepare with one set of the 5 solid preparations 502-506.
- Stir the 2-3 drops of the Valerian preparation for 10-15 minutes in a litre of water and sprinkle over the first layer.
- Repeat same procedure for the second half of the cow manure mix.
- After 4-6 weeks, depending on the time of year, lift all the content and dynamize by turning and mixing the manure from the pit for another hour and then follow same procedure as before adding the biodynamic preparations and put it back into the pit.

Anecdotally, when turning this preparation on a terrace 50 meters away from the production garden in Spain, Alicante a few years back, our gardener came up to me the next morning and asked me: "Have you sprayed Horn Manure Preparation the evening before?" I asked him: "why do you think that?" He said: "Because the cabbage seedlings which were partly wilted, discoloured and slow to grow, are now twice the size bright green and full of vigour!"

Is it possible that just by releasing the life forces by turning the heap of once prepared cow manure with eggshells and basalt, could have communicated with the plants?

After another 2-4 weeks this biodynamic preparation is ready for use.

Store in situ or best put it into a glass or ceramic container with other preparations in a box lined with sphagnum peat or coir to protect the preparations from detrimental radiation and keep the positive life forces in the preparation and to stop it drying out.

The Use of the Cow Pat Pit / Mäusdorfer Starter

Use 60 grams or a small handful for 2500 m² or use 10 grams for a small garden and stir into 10 or 1 litres of luke-warm rainwater respectively. (Stir for 15-20 mins for best results or add to Horn Manure stirring for last 20 mins.)

Spray with a brush or a knapsack sprayer in droplet form just before sunset on the afternoon/evening of an overcast day with plenty of humidity in the air.

Use for areas you don't have enough prepared compost available for, to make sure that all areas in your garden and its soil gets an application of the biodynamic preparations.

Benefits of the Cow Pat Pit or Mäusdorfer Starter

Other benefits are to help the transformation of and absorption of imported, foreign organic matter from outside the garden or farm with a totally different microbiome, quality and character from your own soil.

Use, when working in green manures to help soil to integrate fresh organic matter and as prevention for plants to be protected from the uptake of radioactive strontium and Cesium, when there is a deficiency in the soil of Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium and Sodium.

In Germany after the disaster of Chernobyl in 1986 all organic and conventional farms had to destroy milk, milk products and produce. In Wales and England millions of farm animals were destroyed because of their radioactive levels.

Biodynamic farmers and growers carried on as usual to sell all produce and animal products as their levels of radioactive contamination were below that of the permissible threshold.

Under supervision of Maria Thun in the University of Frankfurt radioactively contaminated soil from Chernobyl was treated with the Cow Pat Pit Preparation and reduced the levels of radiation by 50% after only one application.

As you see this preparation is very effective in detoxing soils and also in healing the soil microflora and it helps with the humus formation.

It is a much undervalued and under used preparation, which also comes in handy for building compost heaps gradually and layering ever so often a pinch of the Cow Pat Pit Preparation or Mäusdorfer Starter into the growing compost heap.

It is also useful in wormeries to add some every so often to create a biodynamic compost.

The Mäusdorfer Starter is made in Mäusdorf in Germany and was initially used in animal bedding to help the breakdown of ammonia from the urea to avoid lung infections and hoof rot in animals, breathing in the ammonia and walking on the deep winter bedding.

It has proven itself to regulate and conserve nitrogen in the bedding and protecting the animals from illnesses mentioned above.

I highly recommend you get your first set of Mäusdorfer Starter from the BDA website shop and then team up with like-minded gardeners to source manure from an organic or biodynamic farm and make your own.

Further anecdotal and historic information

The biodynamic compost preparations are being used for this very special preparation, which was originally suggested to be developed by Dr. Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, who furthered biodynamic developments in Holland and then in the US after WWII.

He developed a compost starter for his large city composting projects in Los Angeles and San Francisco in the 50s. At the same time he became increasingly aware of the contamination of the environment with radioactive fallout from the early experiments and the 2 nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

According to Dr. Steiner and Dr. Pfeiffer it would be impossible for humans to reproduce naturally if more than 15 atomic bombs were dropped on the Earth and reproduction as we know it would be impossible within 3,000 years of this event.

Fortunately, they were mistaken, as by now over 2,000 atomic bomb experiments were executed + all the nuclear power accidents like Fukushima, which is still are leaking into the Pacific since 2011. We can also witness that globally men's sperm counts are reducing and human fertility is challenged.

E. Pfeiffer had advanced the technique of the chromatography and sensitive crystallization method to highlight the blight of the nutritional value in food crops and found that the proteins did not form properly any more due to the change in the light structure after all the nuclear fallout. ('Subnature and Supernature in the Physiology of Nature and Man', Dornach, 1958). He then had the idea of developing the Cow Pat Pit preparation to ameliorate/reduce the effects of the onslaught of these sub-natural technocratic weapons and nuclear power contamination.

Dr. Pfeiffer developed this preparation together with Maria Thun but died prematurely and unexpectedly, too soon to see the completion of the experimental phase and the proliferation on a World Scale for the regeneration of soils and their microbiome. I feel, we are blessed by this possibility of balancing the increasing influence of radioactive fallout and other sub-natural forces with form giving impulses to avert the worst for the healthy development of humans and the Earth. So I encourage you to use this preparation.

I invite you to share your experiences here about the observations you might make after using the Cow Pat Pit or Mäusdorfer Starter Preparation.

Happy biodynamic gardening

Hans-Günther



The cow pad pit preparation
Yarrow
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