

The Making and Benefits of Biodynamic Compost Preparations: Part 3 of 3

This is the 3rd contribution on biodynamic preparations and compost. It deals with the making and the benefits of the biodynamic compost preparations.

If some of you still doubt about the benefits and difference between a biodynamic and an organic approach to composting, this might shed some more light on the differences and enhanced benefits.

Below you will see a description of making the preparations with different plant substances and with different animal organs/sheaths, which bring life processes and biochemical interactions into an enhanced state of synergetic activity to produce new 'sense organs' in the compost pile comparable with our organs in a human organism. The sheaths are either from animals or trees for vegan preparations. There is also an indication which planet and element enhances these bio-active substances.

Enjoy the read:

YARROW (502): In a stags Bladder/ Birch Venus Light/Air Midsummer

Achillea millefolium June hang up/ Sept – late spring

Harvest yarrow flowers from May until October. They can have some seeds developed.

You can use dried or fresh flowers. In the case of using dried flowers, make an infusion from fresh yarrow leaves and pour over dried flower, letting them steep in the infusion for a few minutes.

Acquire a fresh or dried stag's bladder. In the case of using a dried stag's bladder, soak it half an hour to soften it before stuffing it with yarrow flowers.

Tie up the end of bladder and put into a cloth and hang up in a sunny part of the garden.

Protect it from birds.

Bury around the autumn equinox and lift around the spring equinox.

Main Benefits: S, Ca & K + Trace- Elements, transforms (transmutes) K into N (Nitrogen)

Brings Sulphur (S) and Potassium (K) into circulation and in a bioavailable form.

Aids plants in attracting substances in minute quantities for the best nutrition.

Chamomile (503): In the small intestine of Cow/ Larch Mercury Warmth Autumn

Matricaria chamomilla Sept - March

Harvest chamomile flowers from June until October. Harvest before seeds develop.

You can use dried or fresh flowers. In the case of using dried flowers, make an infusion from fresh chamomile leaves and pour over dried flower, letting them steep in the infusion for a few minutes.

Acquire fresh or dried small intestines from an adult cow. In the case of using dried small intestines, soak them half an hour to soften them before stuffing them with chamomile flowers.

Tie up the ends of intestines making small 20cm (8") long sausages.

Bury them around the autumn equinox and lift around the spring equinox.

Main Benefits: Ca & K & stabilizes N

Flowers sensitize plants to absorb and bring Calcium (Ca) and Sulphur (S) into bioavailable form. Stabilizes Nitrogen within the compost and increases the soil life, which in turn stimulates plant growth.

Stinging Nettle (504) In the topsoil Mars Water Autumn

Urtica dioica June – June

Harvest stinging nettle plants from May until June in flower but before they have seeds developed.

Bury in a rich topsoil surrounded with peat or coir around the summer solstice and lift around the following summer solstice.

Main Benefits: Regulates Ca & Si, Mg (Magnesium) and N household (associated elements) in the soil.

Brings Sulphur (S), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Silica (Si) and Iron (Fe) into circulation and in a bioavailable form.

Stimulates soil health, integrates excess vitality of soil and provides plants with the best nutrition. Produces stable humus.

Oakbark (505) In a skull of a domesticated (sheep/pig/cow) Animal Oak Moon Water Autumn

Quercus robur Sept – March

Harvest the oak bark just before the making of preparation. (harvest by scraping/filing some surface bark – do not damage the inner bark – powder it)

Make sure the bark is from a middle aged tree of above species.

Acquire a fresh skull from the slaughter of a domesticated animal, preferably raised on own farm or holding.

Take a fine strong wire and empty (extract) the brain from the opening at the bottom of brain stem.

Fill / stuff the cavity with oak bark shavings-powder moistened with rain water.

Seal opening best with a bone from same animal or a cork.

Bury around the autumn equinox in a stream or running water that collects melt water from snow and surround it with mud and leaves creating putrid conditions.

Lift around the spring equinox.

Main Benefits: Si & Ca household (associated elements)

Stimulates Calcium (Ca) and Si (Silica) processes in the soil and plants.

Provides healing forces (qualities) and protects plants from diseases.

Dandelion (506) In a mesentery of cow/ Maple or Sycamore Jupiter Air/Light Autumn

Taraxacum officinalis Sept – March

Harvest dandelion flowers from April / May (and up until October). Harvest before flowers are open totally. (Need to have still closed centres or go to seed in the process and will disseminate seed everywhere.) Dandelion flowers flower three consecutive days. Harvest on first two when the centre of petals is still compact.

You can use dried or fresh flowers. In the case of using dried flowers, make an infusion from fresh dandelion leaves and pour over dried flower, letting them steep in the infusion for a few minutes.

Acquire fresh or dried mesentery from an adult cow. In the case of using a dried mesentery, soak it half an hour to soften it before stuffing them with dandelion flowers.

Wrap the mesentery with a string or sow it up making small 15cm (6") ball.

Bury mesenteries around the autumn equinox and lift around the spring equinox.

Main Benefits: Enhances K (Potassium, Si (Silica) & P Phosphorous household (associated elements) in plants and soil

This sensitizes plants to Silicic Acid or Silica (Si) and Potassium (K) and brings these into circulations and a bioavailable form. Stimulates the relationship between Si and K to attract cosmic forces to the soil. Strengthens plants fibre-network to protect plants from lodging. Creates a new chemical element.

Valerian (507) In a jar for 3 days in the sun Saturn Warmth 3 days in water

Valeriana officinalis June/July

Harvest Valerian flowers from May to July. Harvest as flowers are opening.

Use only fresh flowers. Immerse flowers in a glass jar with rainwater; press firmly and make sure water covers all flowers. Weigh them down with a stone and place open jar in direct sunlight for 3 days or until you see a cap of mould developing on top.

You can also test it with a litmus paper for acidity. Only use when it has turned acid.

Put the flowers and water through a muslin cloth and press out juices.

Main Benefits: Si (Silica) & S (Sulphur)

Sensitizes plants to take up Phosphorous (P), Si (Silica) & S (Sulphur).

Stimulates the phosphorous process so that phosphorous component will be used properly in the soil. Attracts and augments activity of wigglers and earthworms into the compost pile. Helps to prevent diseases, balance extreme temperatures and increases plant root depth.

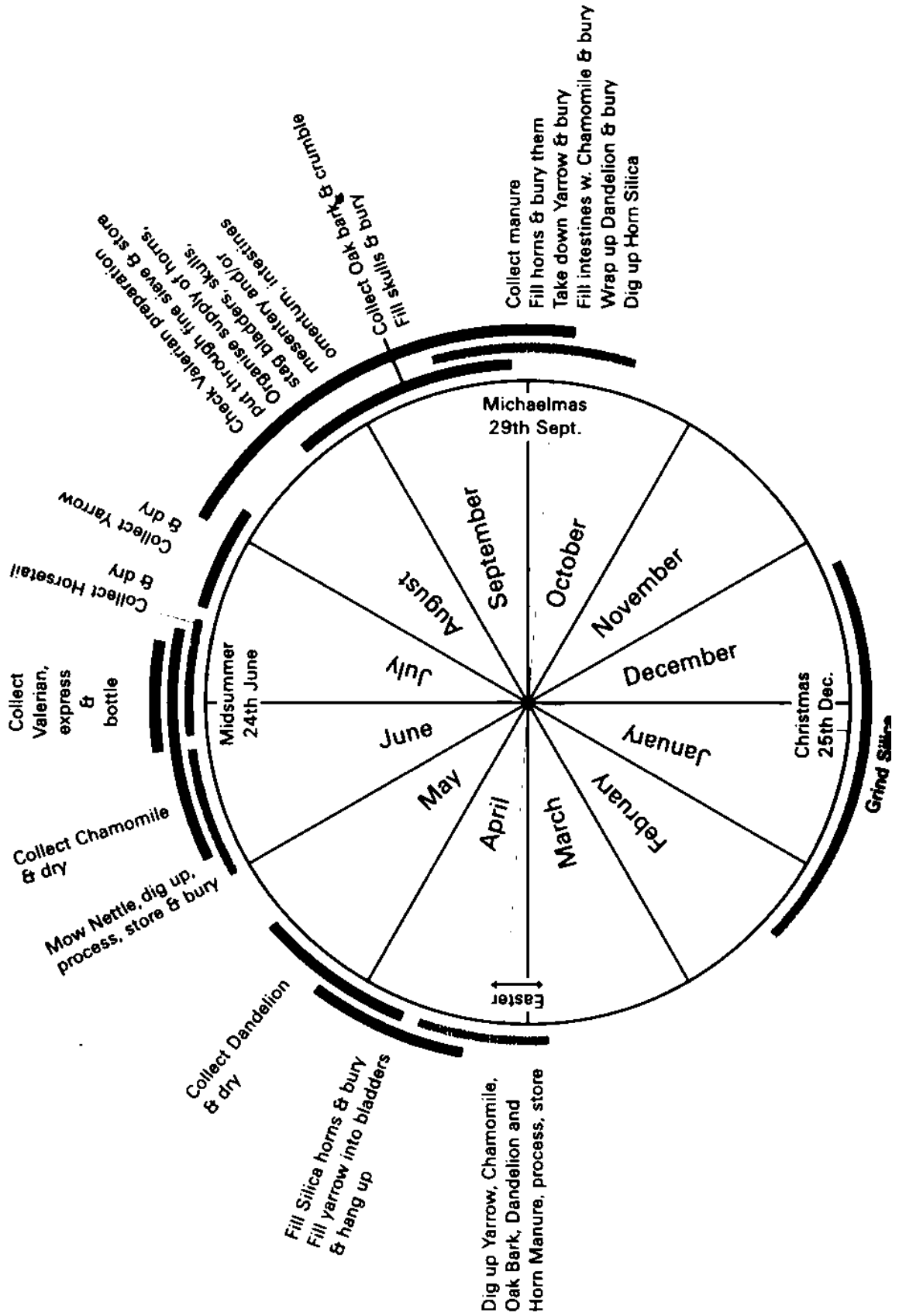
If you feel inclined and inspired to get hands-on by making these preparations, get in touch with the local groups and find out where and when you can join for a communal experience of making these preparations and also apply them to the land.

Next time we look into the use of preparations for the autumn and winter garden.

Happy biodynamic gardening

Hans-Günther Kern

Calendar for making the Preparations



Calendar for using the Preparations

Preparation	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Horn manure	On grassland and after grazing & cutting			On catch crops			On grassland					
		Fruit					Fruit					
		Spring sown crops					Autumn sown crops					
	In the garden when preparing the soil, sowing & planting - afternoons											
Horn silica	Meadows & pastures when growing strongly - mornings											
	Fruit before & after flowering - mornings			During ripening & before leaf fall - afternoons								
	Cereals at 3rd leaf stage - mornings			Winter cereals at 2nd-3rd leaf stage - mornings								
	Cereals at shooting & flowering - mornings			Ripening cereals - afternoons								
	Garden veg & root crops when growing strongly & fruiting begins - mornings						To assist ripening - afternoons					
Valerian	Cereals together with horn silica						Cereals together with horn silica					
	Fruit & vineyards for frost protection											
	Seeds - legumes & oil producing plants											
Horsetail tea	Garden & field on plants/fruit threatened by fungus - can apply with horn silica											
	On the soil											
	On the plants											
	To ripen leaves & strengthen roots - on the soil											
Compost preparations 502 - 507	Throughout the year in manure, slurry & all kinds of organic matter - apply as soon as possible and again when heap is turned or slurry is pumped around.											
Cowpat preparation	Always use as a compost regulator when organic matter is applied to the soil and to ensure the effectiveness of all the compost preparations on the soil, in the manure, in the slurry and during compost making.											

