



2018 North American
**BIODYNAMIC
CONFERENCE**
Portland, Oregon
November 14 - 18

www.biodynamics.com/conference

Biodynamics

What was known and forgotten comes back once again, if you have the eyes to see it.

What is Biodynamics?

- * Biodynamics is an approach to agriculture based on a concept of life forces. These forces work in nature to bring about balance and healing. Biodynamic agriculture uses a philosophical model articulated in eight lectures given in 1924 by Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), an Austrian scientist and philosopher.

Who was Rudolf Steiner?

Rudolf Steiner

- * Original thinker who presented over 6,000 lectures on over 350 different subjects, wrote 25 books and presented innovated approaches to education, the arts, medicine, working with people with special needs.
- * Contributions include founding the Waldorf Education System, Anthroposophy (anthropo-=human, Sophia=wisdom), the Biodynamic Agriculture Movement and many more...



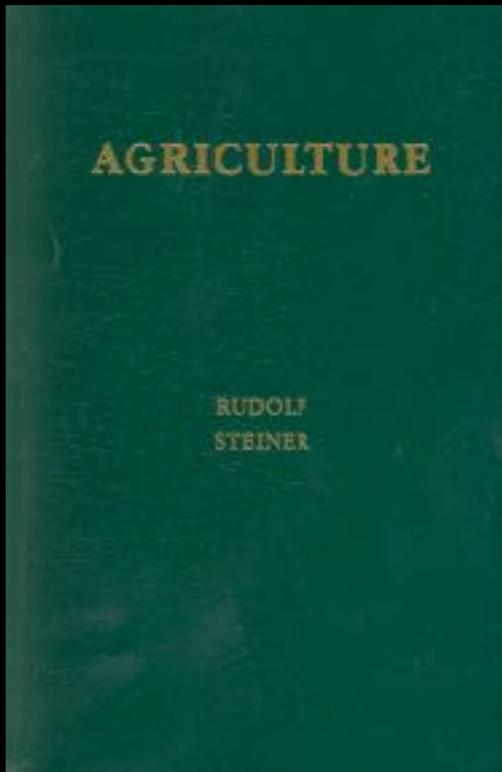
Rudolf Steiner



Ehrenfried Pfeiffer



Josephine Porter Institute in Floyd, Virginia



1924 Agriculture Lectures



Biodynamic Association of Northern California meeting at Fulcrum Farm

“The Agriculture Course”

- * The lectures were given June 7th- 16th, 1924 in response to observations from farmers—that soils were becoming depleted and that the health and quality of crops and livestock were diminishing following the introduction of chemical fertilizers.
- * Encouraged revisiting a style of “peasant farming” that works in partnership with the earth, being observant of the rhythms of the life cycles along with cosmic influences, and indications of using fermented herbs in homeopathic doses to enhance vitality of the farm.
- * Given in Koberwitz, near Breslau which is now in present day Poland at the agricultural estate of Count Carl Keyserlingk. It was a unique gathering of mainly farmers along with a smaller number of people interested but not actively farming.

“The Spiritual Foundations for
the Renewal of Agriculture”

Seek the truly practical, material life,

But seek it in such a way that it does not numb you to the spirit that works within it.

Seek the spirit, but not out of spiritual lust or spiritual egoism.

Seek it rather because you wish to become selfless in the practical life of the material world.

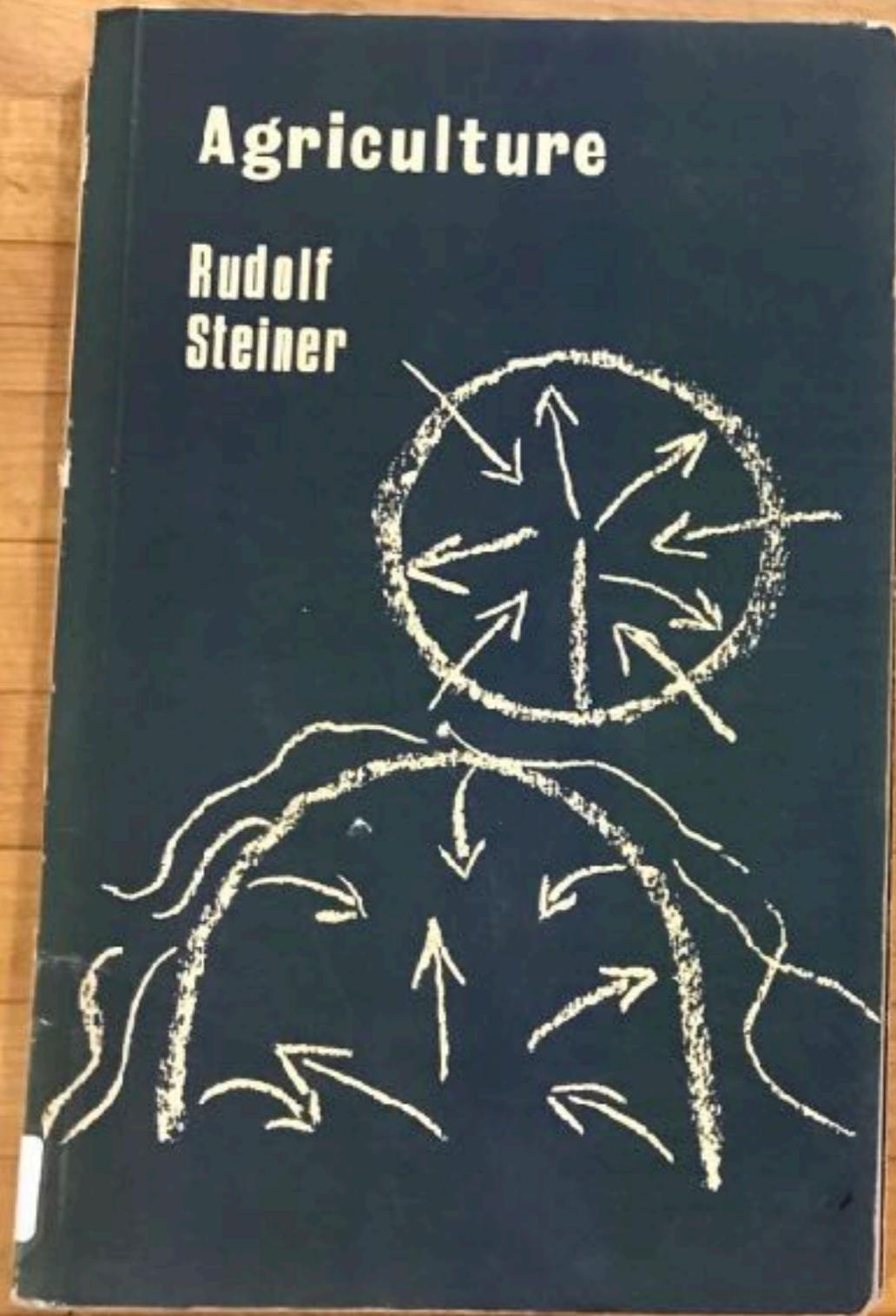
Turn to the ancient principal: **“Spirit never without matter, matter never without spirit.”**

And say to yourselves, We will do everything material in the light of the Spirit,

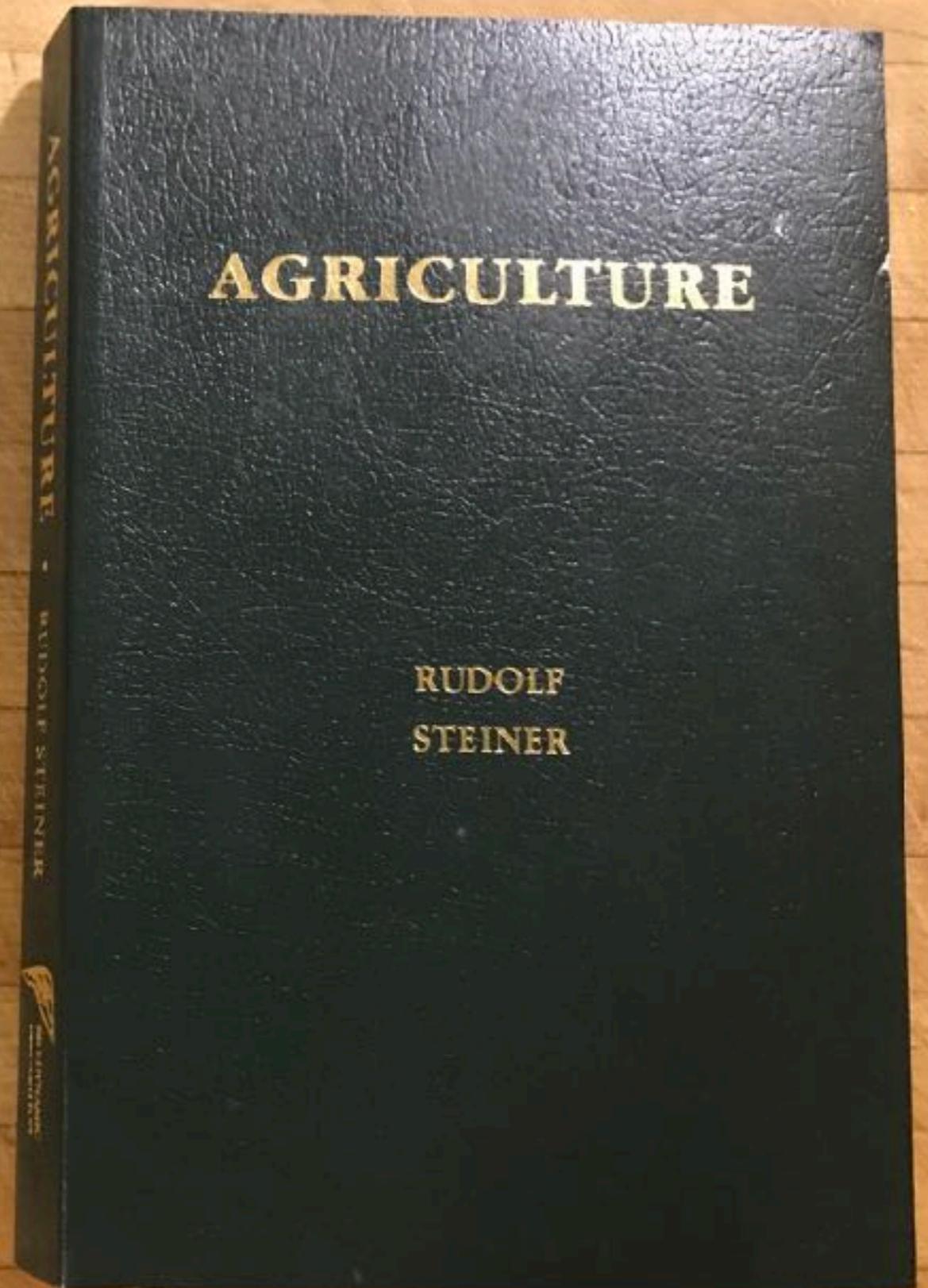
And will seek the light of the Spirit in such a way that it enkindles warmth in us

For our practical deeds.

–Rudolf Steiner



George Adams translation



Malcolm Gardner translation

“The Agriculture Course”

- * Steiner stated, “...the lectures should be considered first of all as hints, which should not be spoken of outside this circle, but looked upon as the foundation for experiments and thus gradually brought into a form suitable for publication.”
- * Meaning that the course was intended to be practical not prescriptive and further experiments were needed, which began immediately following the course.
- * The seeds planted at the agricultural course came to fruition 14 years later (1938) with the publication of Ehrenfried Pfeiffer’s Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening was published in 5 languages.



Bio-Dynamic
Gardening
and
Farming

Articles by
Ehrenfried Pfeiffer

Volume 1

Biodynamic Gardening & Farming: Vol. 1 by Ehrenfried Pfeiffer

In stock

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Category: [Dr. Ehrenfried Pfeiffer](#)

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The Bio-dynamic Movement

- * Walter Ritter in 1926 wrote with enthusiasm of the Koberwitz course, “when spiritual treasures of the greatest significance were entrusted to our care by Rudolf Steiner” who had passed away the previous year due to “Cancer”
- * Ritter reported that E. Pfeiffer “brought to our consciousness the fact that the farmer ... seeks to become a healer for the Earth, plant and animal”, and “can finally become, by this activity, a healer of men”

The Backlash

- * In Ritter's 1926 account he wrote that "this knowledge" would "give us the force to begin the fight" against the "greediness" of agribusiness" which he lamented was "turning the individual farms into mere mechanical 'means of production' and the whole economic life into a 'business'"
- * Even Pfeiffer commented on this clash of agri-philosophies: "At the time of the Agricultural Course the bio-dynamic direction of thought, and the agricultural chemistry, stood opposed"

3.95

THE
PFEIFFER
GARDEN BOOK

Bio-Dynamics in the Home Garden

Bio-Dynamic Farming and
Gardening Association, Inc.

GROW
A GARDEN
AND BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

EHRENFRIED E. PFEIFFER

THE BIODYNAMIC TREATMENT



OF

FRUIT TREES
BERRIES
AND SHRUBS

BIO-DYNAMIC COMPOSTING ON THE FARM

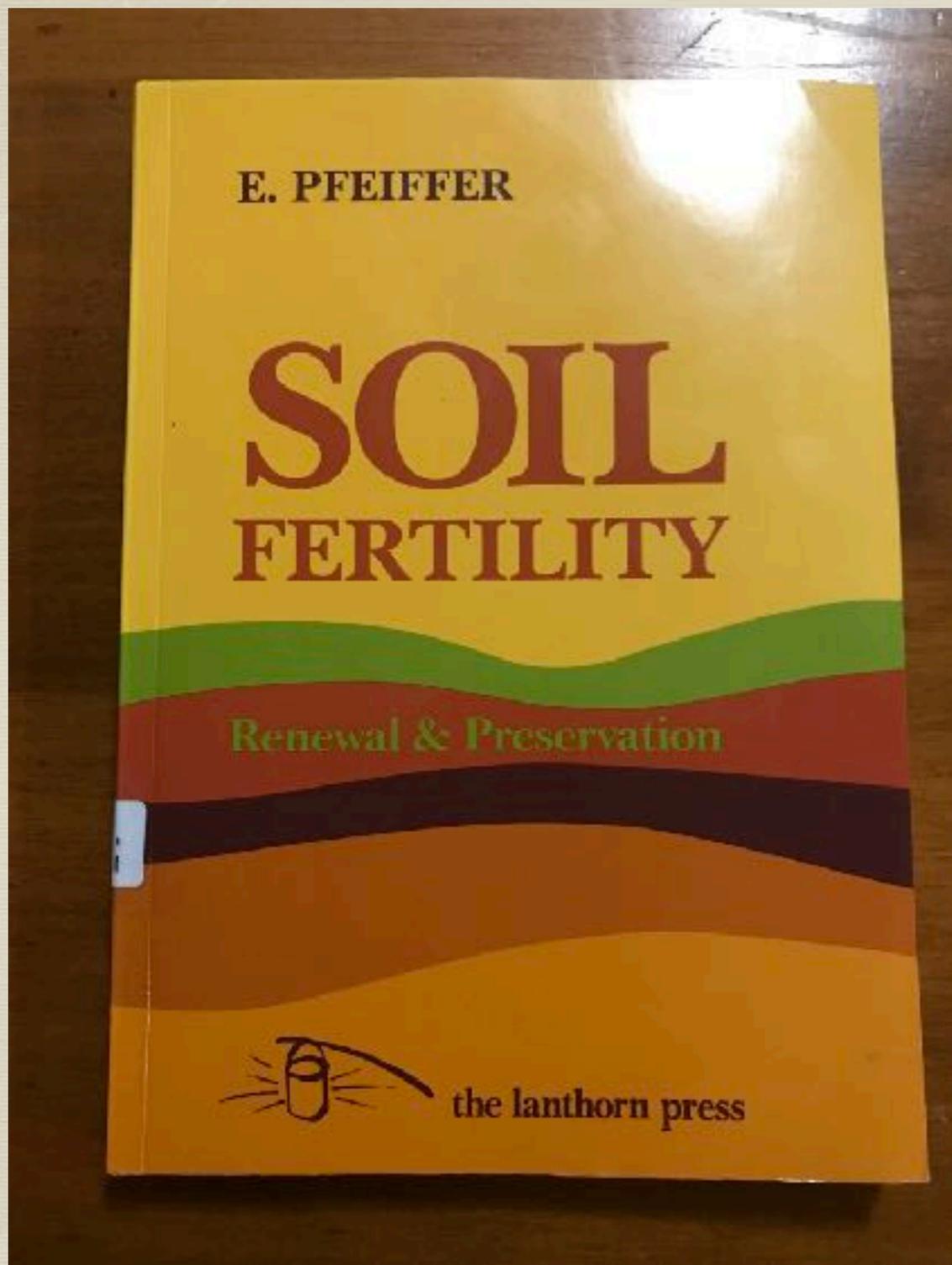
PETER BLASER



HOW MUCH COMPOST SHOULD WE USE?

EHRENFRIED E. PFEIFFER





First Published in 1947

The mineralization of the soil can be caused by the destruction of the physical and organic structure. We shall speak later of the influence of cultivation. The effect of the use of chemical fertilizers on plant growth is well known. They increase the yield, producing thick, heavy plants, especially when nitrogenous fertilizers are used. This effect has made the farmer particularly fond of chemical fertilizers, for they give him bigger harvests. Scientists even tell him that he thus supplies otherwise deficient elements in the soil.

But two things may be observed by the practical agriculturist who lives and works close to the soil:

(a) That in order to maintain the same yield from year to year he must increase frequently the yearly quantity of chemical fertilizer.

(b) That the soil structure changes in the direction of the hardening and encrusting process already described.

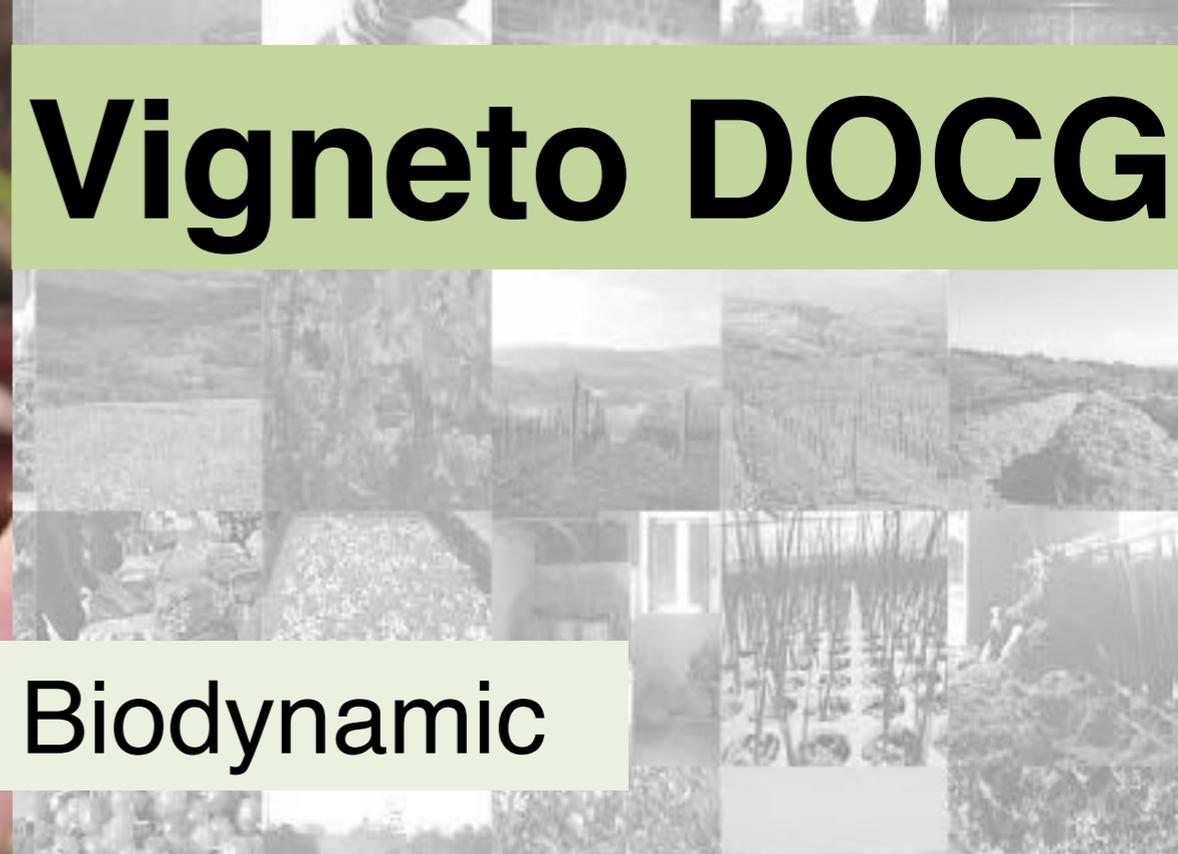
To-day agriculture is regarded merely as one aspect of the economic life. The ancient picture of farming has been altered by economic considerations. The farmer's methods of cultivation and the whole manner in which he regards his agricultural unit have changed along with the growth of industrialism and the spread of technical knowledge. The tilled field has its productive capacity and its fixed charges calculated to the last decimal. The nutritive substances in the soil have been analysed by scientific research. They are weighed and balanced against the nutritive requirements of the plants. As far as the mineral content is concerned, the most comprehensive studies have been carried out. As a result of all this, the so-called intelligent farmer, since the rise of chemical science in the middle of the last century, finds himself more and more forced to assume the role of the proprietor of a "growth factory". His means of production are his soil, his farm implements and the growth-capacity of his plants.

Vigneto DOCG

Biodynamic

Conventional

Courtesy of Adriano Zago



Organic Gardening and Farming®

April, 1974
70 Cents



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MR-MRS H J NESSON
309 PEARL ST
HARTSELLE AL 35640

Organic
1B. Apples
10¢

Organic Gardening and Farming®

September, 1974
70 Cents



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GARLIC - GRAPES



J.I. Rodale and E. Pfeiffer met in
Kimberton, PA in the 1930's.

Pfeiffer led the initiative to found the Biodynamic Farming
and Gardening Association, and to start its journal.

J.I. Rodale, founder of *Organic Gardening and Farming*
magazines and the Organic movement in the USA.



Regenerative Organic Certified

J.I. Rodale, wrote "Healthy Soil=Healthy Food=Healthy People" on a chalkboard back in 1942.

His son, Robert Rodale, coined the term 'regenerative organic agriculture' to distinguish a kind of farming that goes beyond simply 'sustainable.' That always meant agriculture improving the resources it uses, rather than destroying or depleting them. It is a holistic systems approach to farming that encourages continual innovation for environmental, social, economic and spiritual wellbeing.

Courtesy of the Rodale Institute 2018

Biological-Dynamic Methods

- * Pfeiffer had stated that: “The name Bio-Dynamic Method of Agriculture was not given by Rudolf Steiner but arose from the circle of those at the start who concerned themselves with the practical application of this new direction of thought.”
- * By 1928 the Demeter symbol and first Standard was introduced to ensure that the farming methods were uniformly followed and monitored. By 1931, there were approximately 1,000 Biodynamic Farms

Demeter

- * *The Farm Standard* is historically significant because it dates back to the beginning of the modern sustainable agriculture movement and captures key agronomic principals not comprehensively addressed within any other agricultural certification system.





DEMETER BIODYNAMIC FARM STANDARD

1. Biological Diversity
2. Generating Fertility on the Farm
3. The Biodynamic preparations and wider connections
4. Generating disease, insect and weed control on the farm
5. Integration of livestock
6. On-farm water and waterway conservation
7. Gentle post harvesting and handling

Demeter

- * In 1985 Demeter was formed in the US as a non-profit, seventeen years before the USDA established the National Organic Program (NOP).
- * Demeter International is the first, and remains, the only ecological association consisting of a network of individual certification organizations in 45 countries around the world.
- * They are the owner of the trademark terms “Biodynamic” and “Demeter”

“Now a farm comes closest to its own essence when it can be conceived of as a kind of independent individuality, a self-contained entity. In reality, every farm ought to **aspire** to this state of being a self-contained individuality.”

–Rudolf Steiner

Biodynamics includes the same practices as “conventional” organic farming but adds its own group of special practices.

Organics is to “do no harm”

Biodynamics is “do not harm, AND take efforts to heal the earth”

USDA National Organic Program

- permits imported organic fertilizers and pesticides
- allows for organic feed imported to the farm from anywhere in the world
- is crop focused and allows for a designated parcel to be certified

Demeter Biodynamic Certification

- reduces imported materials by addressing its needs from within the farming system
- requires 50% of livestock feed be grown on farm
- is farm focused and requires that the whole farm be certified
- requires a biodiversity set-aside of 10% of the total farm acreage







- Frey Vineyards joined CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) in 1980.
- By 2008 they sourced fruit from 30 different growers, many they helped to Organically certify their property.
- Out of the 1000 acres on the estate, only 100 are planted for a 90% Biodiversity to production ratio

Biodynamics

- * Combines “biological” agriculture with an understanding of “dynamic” ecological systems.
- * The “conventional” organic agriculture today practices “biological” farming, using cover crops and manure to build the microbiology of the soil.
- * The “dynamic” part of the practice takes a broader perspective to enhance metaphysical aspects (the life forces) and natural rhythms (such as planting seeds during certain lunar phases).

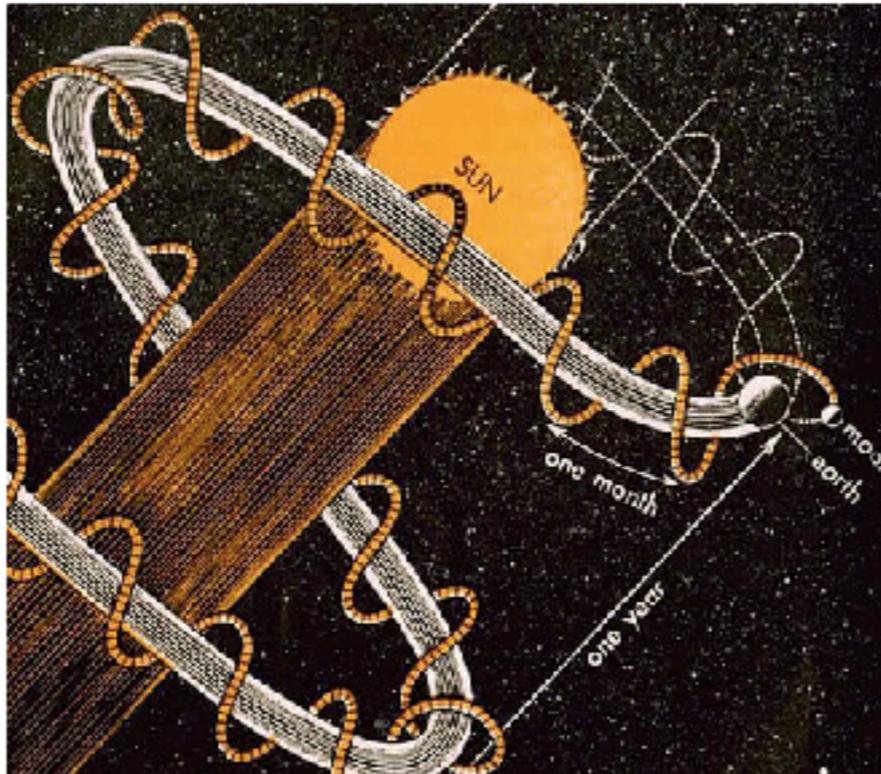


Courtesy of Benziger Winery

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Specializing in supplies and services for Organic and Biodynamic growers and farmers in the Willamette Valley.

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Reading the Book of Nature

- * Everything in nature reveals something of its essential character in its form and gesture. Careful observations of nature — in shade and full sun, in wet and dry areas, on different soils, will yield a more fluid grasp of the elements.
- * Eventually one learns to read the language of nature, and then one can be creative, bringing new emphasis and balance through specific actions.



Broaden Our Perspectives

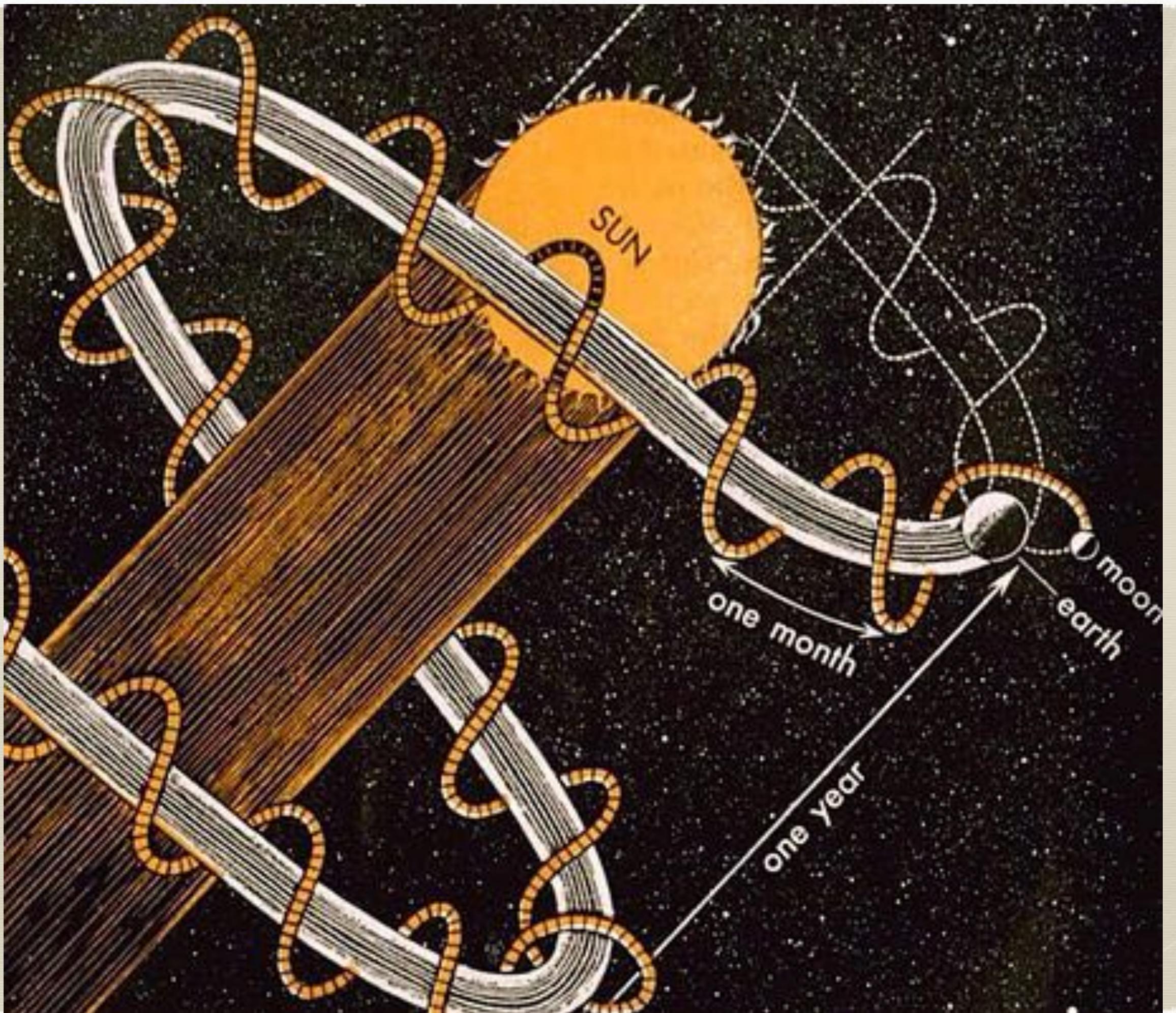
- * Just as we need to look at the magnetic field of the whole earth to comprehend the compass, to understand plant life we must expand our view to include all that affects plant growth.
- * No narrow microscopic view will suffice. Plants are utterly open to and formed by influences from the depths of the earth to the heights of the heavens.
- * Therefore our considerations in agriculture must range more broadly than is generally assumed to be relevant.

CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS

1. ENERGY

- Energies in the Universe
 - Gravity
 - Magnetism
 - Lunar, solar... other planets and constellations
- Influence on Nature
 - Tides
 - Sap
 - Seed, sow → harvest







Cosmic Rhythms

- * The light of the sun, moon, planets and stars reaches the plants in regular rhythms. Each contributes to the life, growth and form of the plant.
- * By understanding the gesture and effect of each rhythm, we can time our ground preparation, sowing, cultivation and harvesting to the advantage of the crops we are raising.

Plant Life is Intimately Bound Up With the Life of the Soil

- * Biodynamics recognizes that soil itself can be alive, and this vitality supports and affects the quality and health of the plants that grow in it.
- * One of Biodynamics fundamental efforts is to build up stable humus in our soil through composting.
- * Soil is more than dirt or only an anchor for the plants but an organism teaming with healthy fungal and bacterial relationships.

“Man, despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication and many accomplishments, owes the fact of his existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains here.”

–Unknown



PART 205—NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP)

§205.203 **Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard.**

(a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of **soil** and minimize **soil** erosion.

(b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and **soil** fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials.

§205.205 **Crop rotation practice standard.**

The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:

- (a) **Maintain or improve soil** organic matter content;
- (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops;
- (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and
- (d) Provide erosion control.





Composting Yard
Major component of
Biodynamics recycling our
waste stream, regenerates
fertility and reduces inputs.

III-A.

GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT

Ideally, the greenhouse enterprise should be integrated into a farm setting complete with livestock.

Biodynamic growing principles emphasize the utmost importance of building up a living soil and developing a complete, self-sufficient farm organism. Ideally, the greenhouse enterprise should be integrated into a farm setting complete with livestock. At the very least, plant propagation cannot take place without contact with enlivened soil.

33. Potting soils and growing media

Definitions: Potting soil - the mixture used to start seedlings.

Growing medium - the mixture in which the plants are grown to maturity.

Both should, if possible, originate from the farm's own compost which has been made with Biodynamic compost preparations. This compost should comprise at least 25% of the mix. The use of well ripened compost helps eliminate any soil-borne disease problems. There is a practical upper limit to the percentage of compost used. Growing media in particular need to include soil as a major component.

Rock wool is not permitted. Vermiculite is allowed.

Potting soils and growing media may be sterilized with steam. In order to guide microbial re-colonization, the Biodynamic compost preparations, compost tea, BD 500, or a compound preparation such as Thun Barrel Compost or Pfeiffer Compost Starter, should be used without delay.

34. Hydroponics

Soil-less growing is not permitted except for those cultures of aquatic plants, such as cress and certain ornamentals. In the latter case, Biodynamic preparations may be added to the water.

A New View of Nutrition

- * We gain our physical strength from the process of breaking down the food we eat. The more vital our food, the more it stimulates our own activity.
- * Biodynamic farmers and gardeners aim for quality and not only quantity. Biodynamics grows food with a strong connection to a healthy living soil.

THE BIO-DYNAMIC VERSUS THE MINERAL CONCEPT OF AVAILABILITY

—POT ASH—

LIGHT

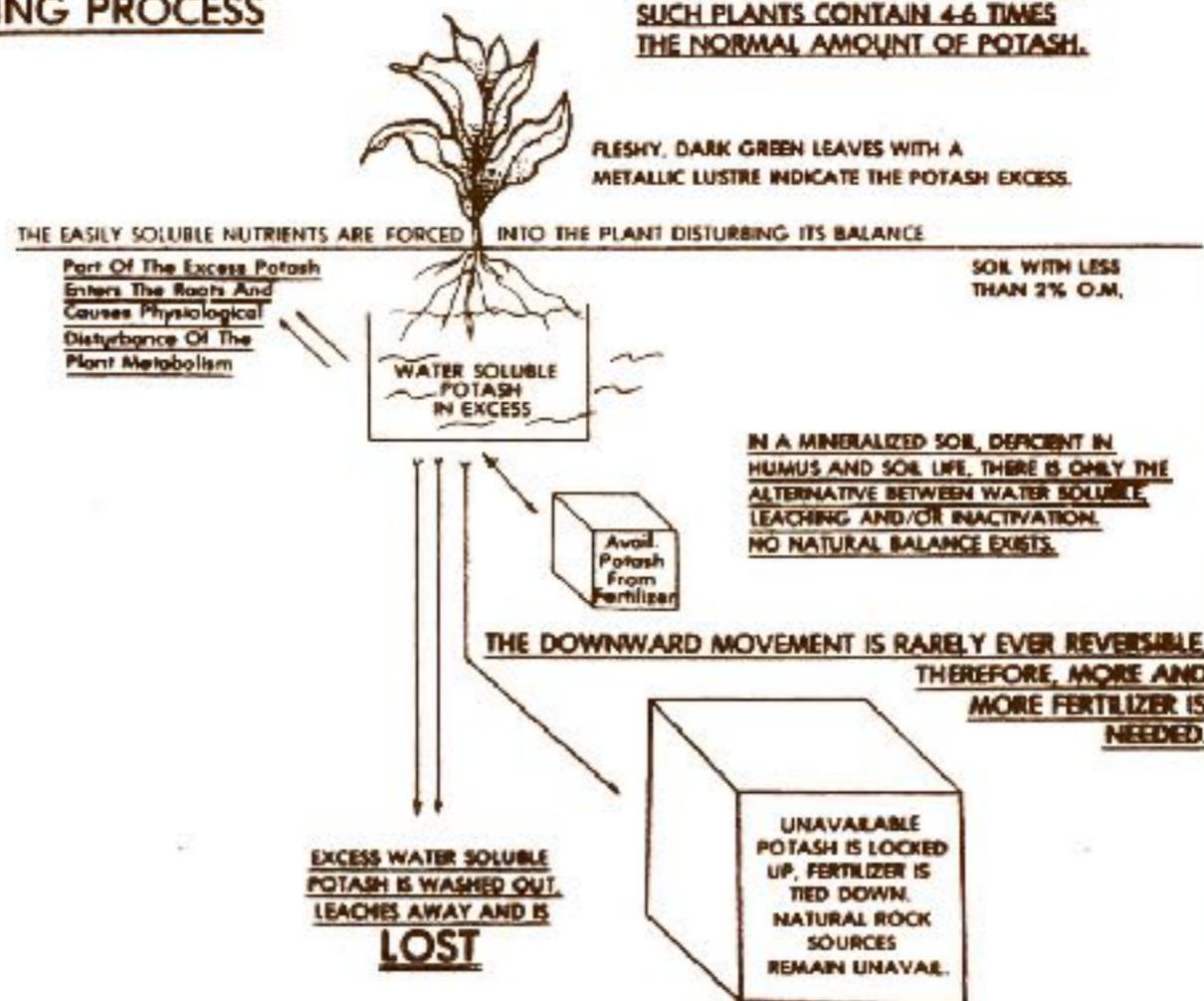
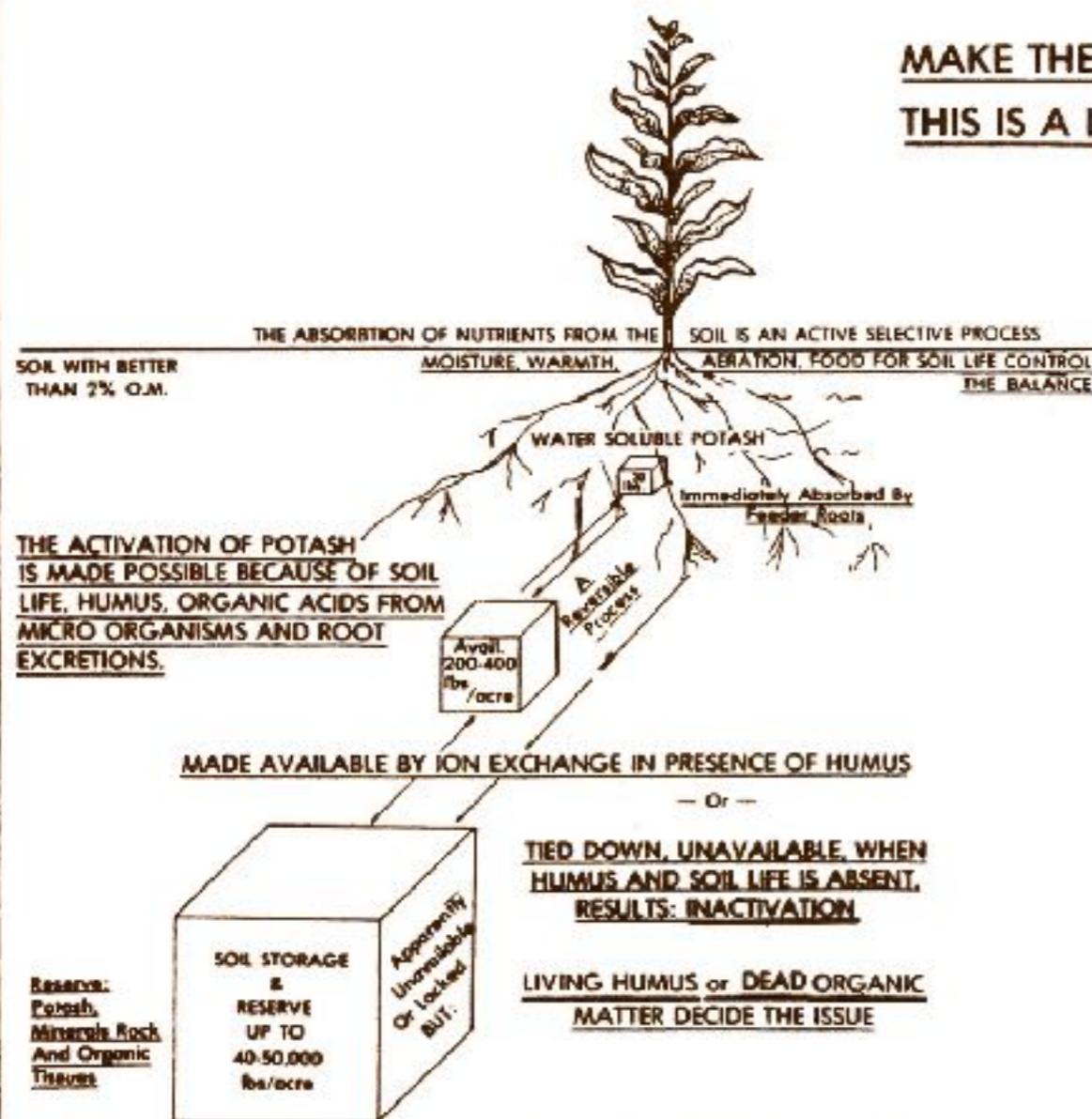
WARMTH

AIR

WATER

MAKE THE PLANTS GROW
THIS IS A LIVING PROCESS

THE EXCESS CONSUMPTION OF WATER SOLUBLE POTASH PRODUCES TOXIC EFFECTS IN ANIMALS FEEDING ON SUCH PLANTS. MILK FROM COWS THIS FED DOES NOT MAKE CHEESE! SUCH PLANTS CONTAIN 4-6 TIMES THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF POTASH.



A NATURAL DYNAMIC BALANCE IS ESTABLISHED — MOVING UPWARDS OR DOWNWARDS — ACCORDING TO CONDITIONS. POTASH IS ALWAYS "READY" IN A STAND-BY POSITION
NO WASTE — NO EXCESS

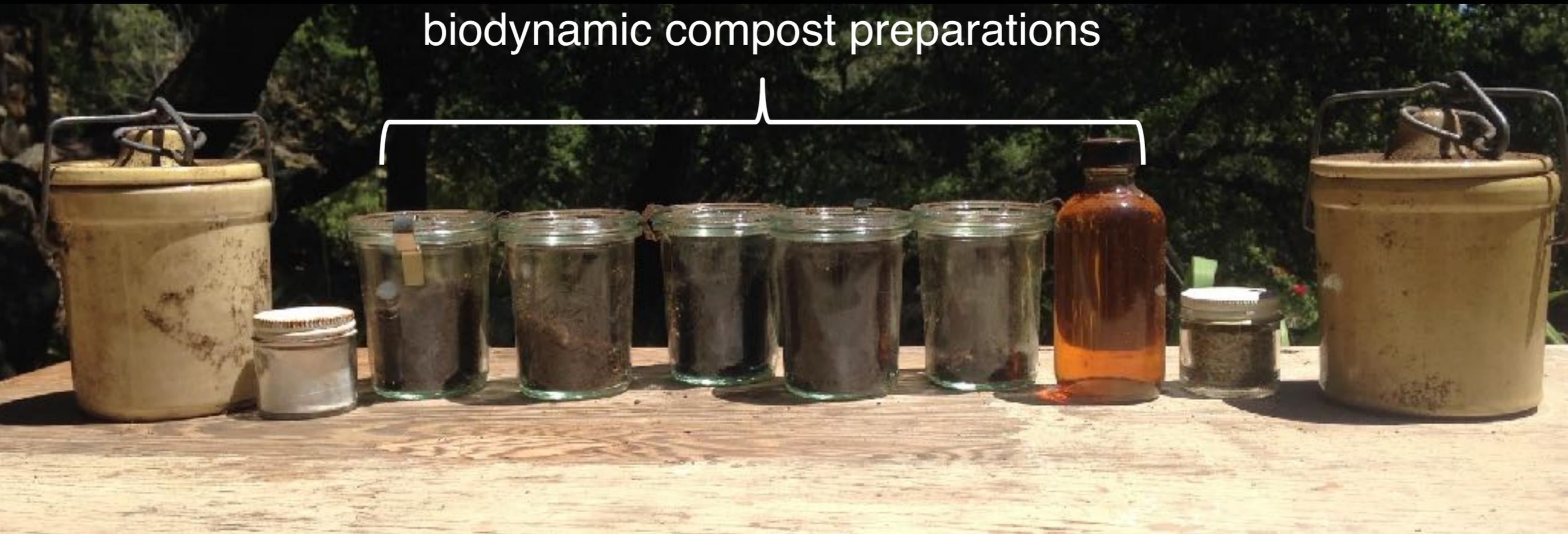
EVEN RAW MANURE INCREASES LEACHING
THE ONLY PROTECTION: TO BUILD UP SOIL WITH COMPOSTED, B.D. ACTIVATED ORGANIC MATTER.

Medicine for the Earth: Biodynamic Preparations

- * Rudolf Steiner pointed out that a new science of cosmic influences would have to replace old, instinctive wisdom and superstition. Out of his own insight, he introduced what are known as Biodynamic Preparations.
- * Naturally occurring plant and animal materials are combined in specific recipes in certain seasons of the year and placed into compost piles.
- * These preparations bear concentrated forces within them and are used to organize the chaotic elements within the compost piles.
- * When the process is complete, the resulting Preparations are medicines for the Earth which draw new life forces from the cosmos. Two of the Preparations are used directly in the field, one on the earth before planting, to stimulate soil life and one on the leaves of growing plants to enhance capacity to receive the light.



biodynamic compost preparations



48 hour culture

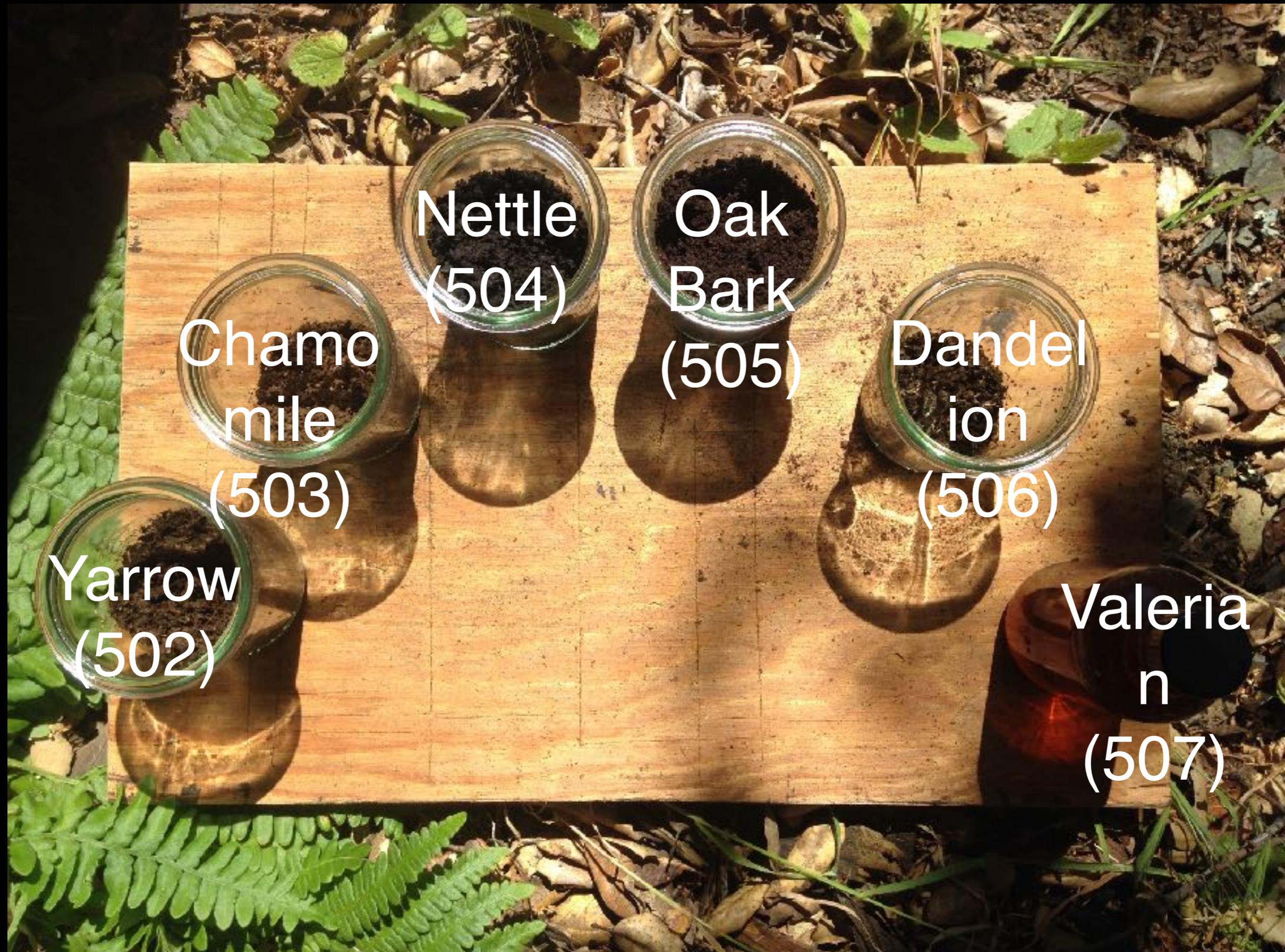


30 thousand
aerobic bacteria



910 million
aerobic bacteria

30,333 times more with biodynamic yarrow preparation



Yarrow
(502)

Chamo
mle
(503)

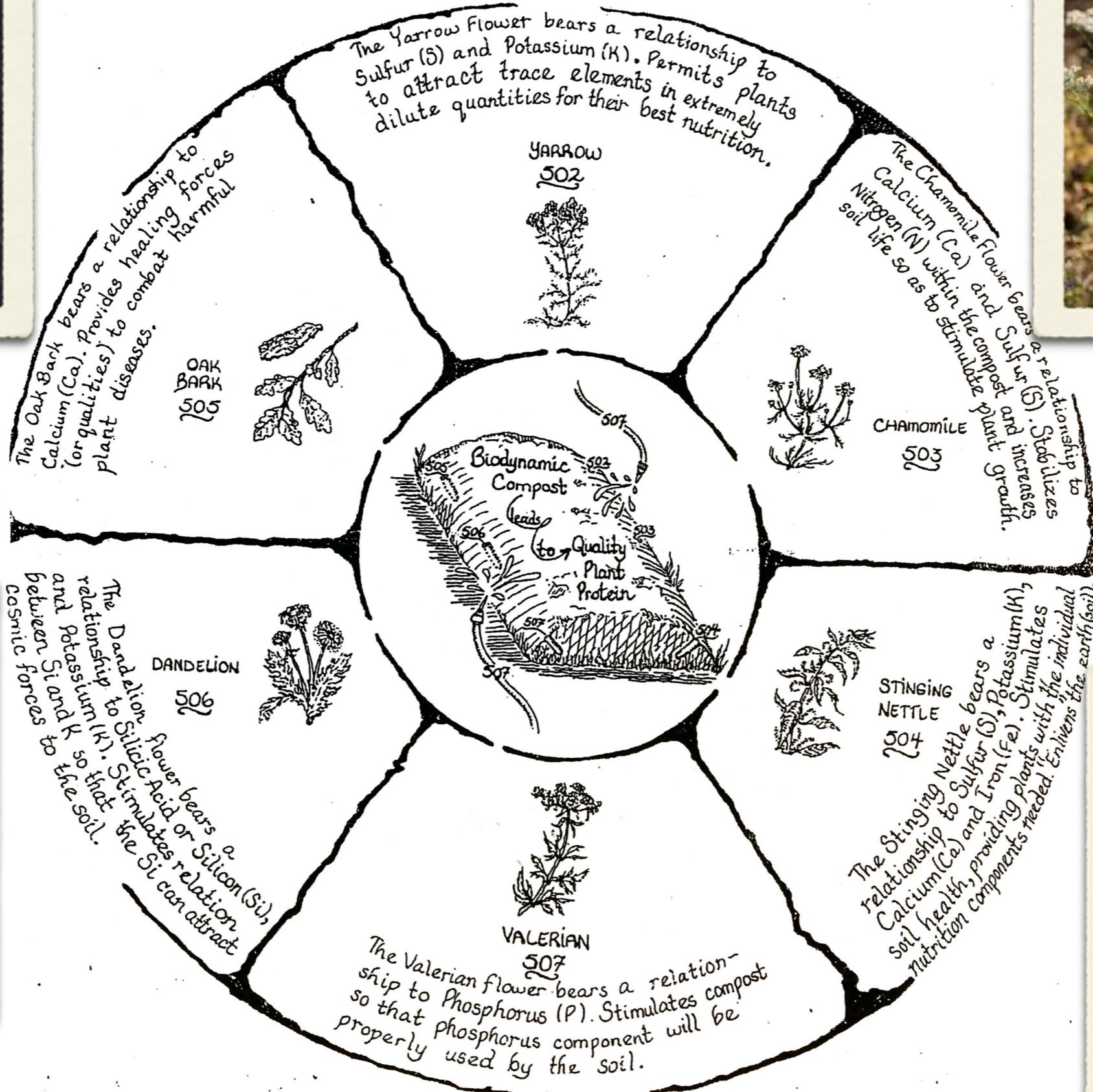
Nettle
(504)

Oak
Bark
(505)

Dandel
ion
(506)

Valeria
n
(507)

Biodynamic Compost Preparations





CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS

MINUTE DOSES → FAR-REACHING EFFECTS

- Negative
 - Chemical
 - Biological
 - Particulate matter
 - Energy: radiation, electromagnetic
- Positive
 - Chemical and biological
 - Potentizations and concentrations
 - Energy



BD 500 Horn Manure



Oregon Biodynamic Group
www.oregonbd.org

Brooks Wines
Amity, Or



Transformed BD 500



**One unit of BD 500
stirred in 2-3 gallons
water will treat one acre.
Afternoon/evening
application**





Support
Bio-Dynamic
Agriculture

Potentizing the Preparations

- * Specifically for the spray applications BD 500 and 501, it is essential to activate and distribute the preparations properly on soils and plants.
- * They are stirred for one hour before application.
- * This is done by moving the water as quickly as possible in such a way that a deep vortex is formed almost to the bottom of the stirring vessel.
- * This is continued until the well formed vortex “stands”.
- * Then by abruptly reversing the direction of stirring, the existing vortex is destroyed and a new one formed running in the opposite direction.
- * The rhythmically changing action after an hour creates a very intensive mixing and aeration process.









How to use the preparations

500 or 500P should be applied several times during Spring, on warm, damp soil. This will favour spring growth and root development of early sowing and planting. Applications of 500 or 500P should be repeated at major sowing/planting times during the season.

Special care should be given to application of root dips when planting trees/shrubs.

Use a mixture of stirred 500P, fresh cow manure and clay.

In Autumn, another overall spraying of 500P should be carried out before the soil gets cold.

501 is beneficial for plants during their major growth phase, as well as during maturation.

NEVER USE 501 ON PLANTS THAT ARE TOO YOUNG, WEAK, OR SUFFERING FROM LACK OF WATER (drought conditions).

507, or the Valerian Preparation, is useful in cases of plant stress due to hail, frost or extreme variations in day/nighttime temperatures.

Stir 507 for 20 minutes if used by itself, or add it at the beginning of stirring if used in conjunction with other Preparations

Maria Thun's barrel compost is usually used in Autumn. This Preparation is complementary to plain 500.

It is useful for stimulating the decomposition of organic matter and can be used on animal bedding and compost heaps.

Repeated applications of the barrel compost are required, preferably 2 – 4 applications.

It is not necessary to use Maria Thun's barrel compost if using 500P.

The 6 Compost Preparations or Compost Starter are essential ingredients to composting.

The Compost Preparations should be inserted into the freshly-made compost heap. If only small quantities of household/garden waste are available, it may be preferable - and easier - to use the Compost Starter instead.





The Farm as the Basic Unit of Agriculture

- * In his Agriculture course, Rudolf Steiner posed the ideal of the self-contained farm—that there should be just the right number of animals to provide manure for fertility and these animals should, in turn be fed from the farm.
- * We can seek the essential gesture of such a farm also under other circumstances. It has to do with the preservation and recycling of the life forces with which we are working. Vegetable waste, manure, leaves, food scraps, all contain precious vitality, which can be held and put to use for building up the soil if they are handled wisely.
- * The farm is also a teacher and provides the educational opportunity to imitate nature's wise self-sufficiency within a limited area.

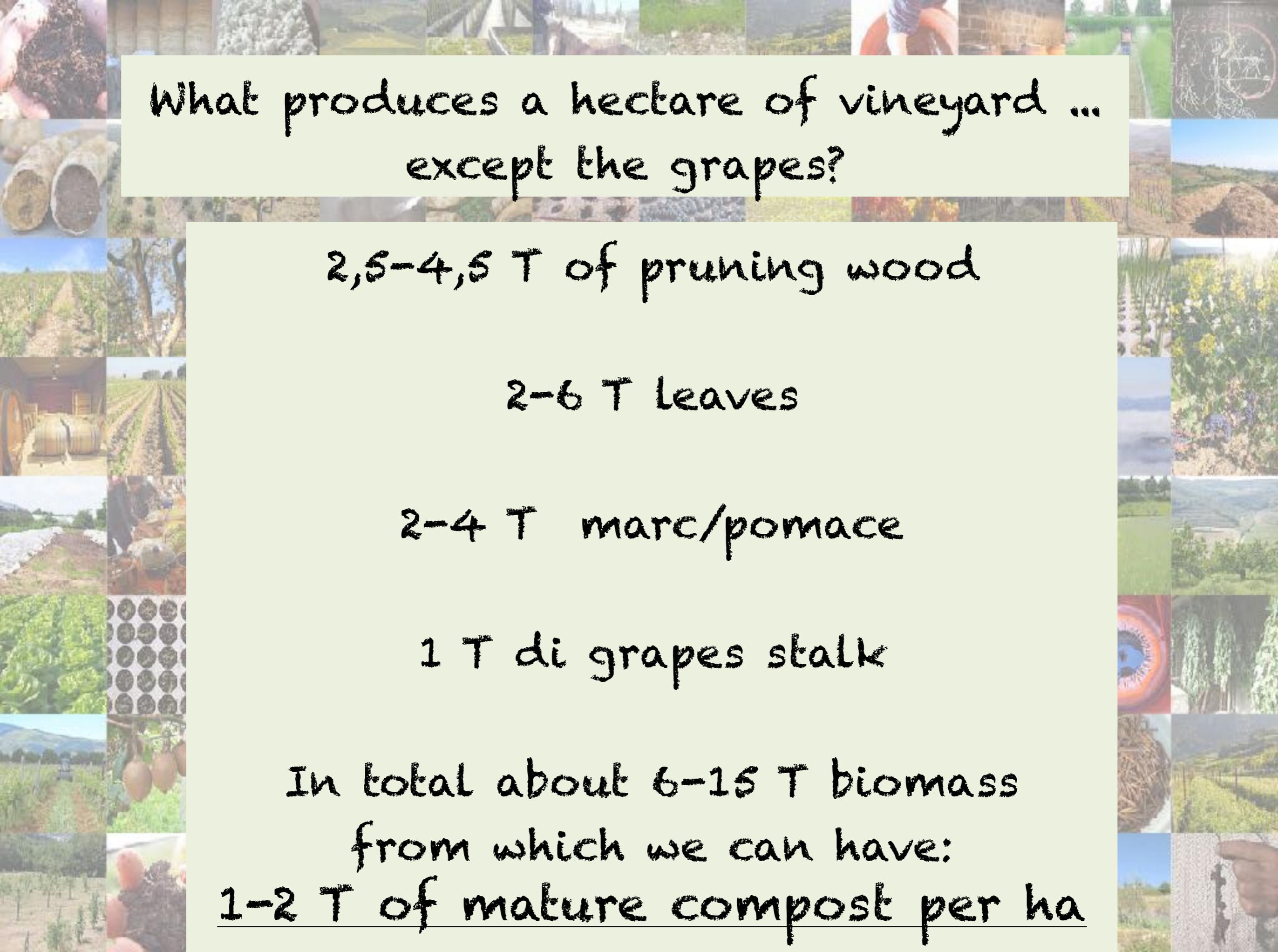












What produces a hectare of vineyard ...
except the grapes?

2,5-4,5 T of pruning wood

2-6 T leaves

2-4 T marc/pomace

1 T di grapes stalk

In total about 6-15 T biomass
from which we can have:

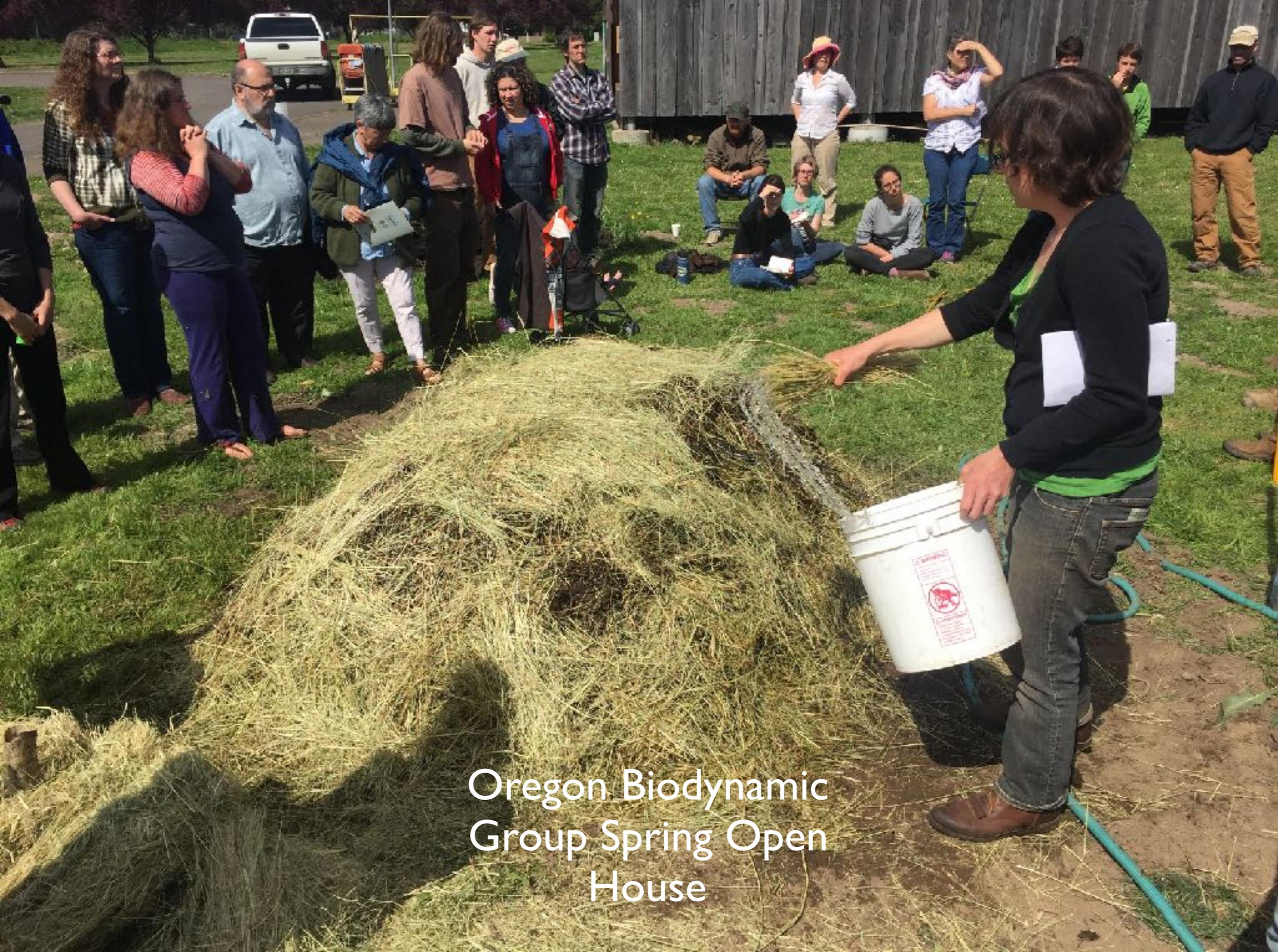
1-2 T of mature compost per ha











Oregon Biodynamic
Group Spring Open
House







malibu compost

- founded July 2009
- sold first compost november 2009
- expanded product line to include compost tea bags; potting soil; organic lawn amendment
- oregon farm est. fall 2014
- national expansion







Winter Green Farm
Noti, Or





5% OM

1% OM





VENICA&VENICA



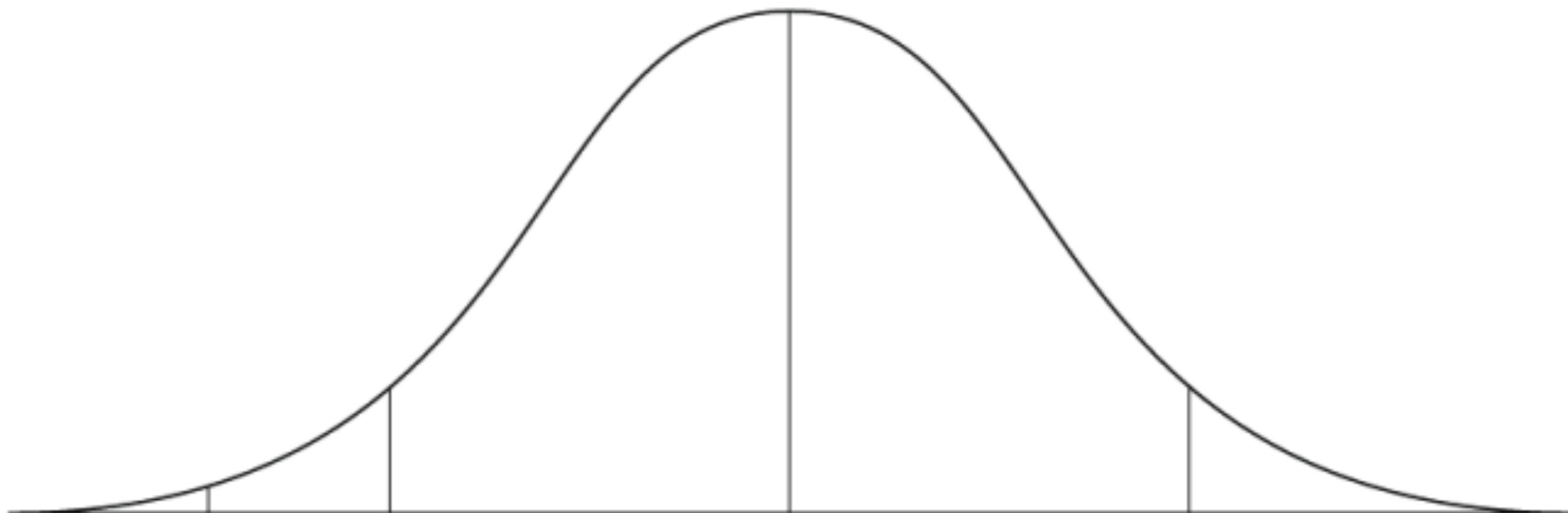
Striving for the ideal

“BE PRACTICAL,
DON'T BE A TERRIBLE
EGOIST!”

Diffusion of Innovations

The Technology Adoption Curve

As captured by Everett Rogers in his book Diffusion of Innovations, people tend to adopt new technologies at varying rates. Their relative speed of adoption can be plotted as a normal distribution, with the primary differentiator being individuals' psychological disposition to new ideas.



Innovators

(2.5%) are risk takers who have the resources and desire to try new things, even if they fail.

Early Adopters

(13.5%) are selective about which technologies they start using. They are considered the "one to check in with" for new information and reduce others' uncertainty about a new technology by adopting it.

Early Majority

(34%) take their time before adopting a new idea. They are willing to embrace a new technology as long as they understand how it fits with their lives.

Late Majority

(34%) adopt in reaction to peer pressure, emerging norms, or economic necessity. Most of the uncertainty around an idea must be resolved before they adopt.

Laggards

(16%) are traditional and make decisions based on past experience. They are often economically unable to take risks on new ideas.







For more information...

- * Attend Oregon Biodynamic Group meetings and/or purchase preparations from the group.
- * “Like” Oregon Biodynamic Group on facebook at www.facebook.com/oregonbd and come to our events!
- * Next Oregon BD event April 8th at the Corvallis Waldorf School.
- * Attend the National Conference November 14th-18th in Portland, Oregon .
www.biodynamics.com
- * Go to www.demeter.com for more information on certification.
- * Preparation information at www.jpibiodynamics.com
- * Visit my website at www.unconventionalfarmssupply.com for updated information.

Oregon Biodynamic Group



Making Biodynamic Preparations for over 40 years

"We have the means of kindling the life within the earth itself"

Rudolf Steiner

Join us for educational opportunities,
hands-on workshops, study, & fellowship!
Check our calendar for upcoming events & schedules

- **Biodynamic field days:** hands-on activities, mini-lectures, Q & A with local Biodynamic practitioners
- **Spring meeting:** Unearthing the preparations, Introduction to Biodynamics with Q & A
- **Summer meeting:** Preparations 501, 502, 504
- **Fall meeting:** Bury the preparations, make BC, Introduction to Biodynamics with Q & A
- **Winter meeting:** Visioning, business, study, & fellowship

Biodynamic Preparations made by the Oregon Biodynamic Group

Spray preps:

500 Horn manure
501 Horn silica
508 Equisetum
BC

Compost preps:

502 Yarrow
503 Chamomile
504 Nettles
505 Oak Bark
506 Dandelion
507 Valerian

www.OregonBD.org

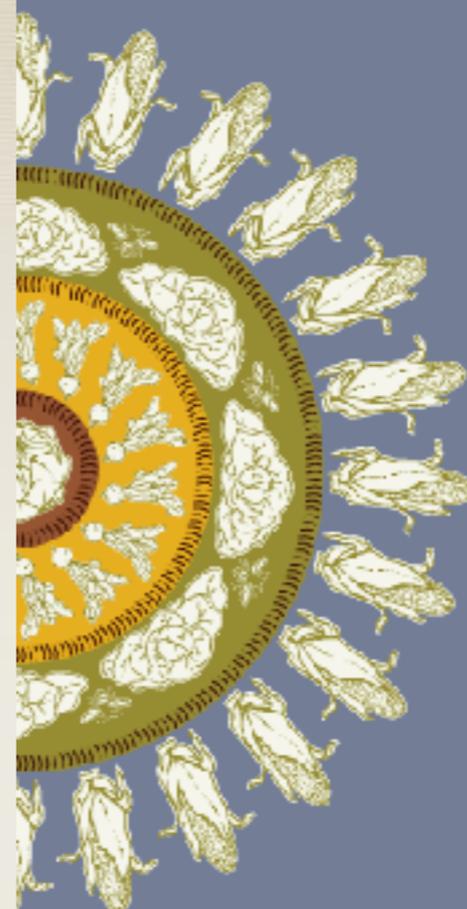
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INTERNATIONAL
BIODYNAMIC[®]
WINE **MAY 6 & 7/2018**
SAN FRANCISCO
CONFERENCE



2018 Biodynamic Conference
TRANSFORMING
the HEART of
AGRICULTURE
Soil. Justice. Regeneration.

How can we transform the ways we think about and work with the soil? How can we contribute to building equity, inclusion, and true community? And how can we regenerate our earth, our communities, and our spirits?

Learn, discuss, and build community this fall
at the 2018 North American Biodynamic Conference.



November 14 through 18, Red Lion Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR

 BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION

biodynamics.com/conference
(262) 649-9212 x2



2018 North American
**BIODYNAMIC
CONFERENCE**
Portland, Oregon
November 14 - 18

www.biodynamics.com/conference