

What Maria Thun has to say about her

Barrel Compost

which she calls COWPIE PREPARATION. This is an unauthorized translation intended for private use only. Please use it with this fact in mind. All parenthesis are the translator's.



The reader should note that the following presentation does not deal with horn manure-500, but rather an intensification of the effect of the compost preparations.

Research carried out some 20 years ago at an institute in Freiburg (Germany) demonstrated that plants grown on weathered calcium soils accumulate much less radioactive elements from atomic wastes than plants grown on silicious soils in the same area. Research carried out over the years with this question in mind, demonstrated that chicken eggshells have tremendous importance with regard to calcium processes in the soil and pH.

A further question in our research concerned basalt, which on the one hand was added in sand form to manure or even compost and resulted in ever new weathering processes in the soil, which in turn had a positive effect on the building up?¹ ("Vergauung") of clay minerals. On the other hand, basalt meal sprinkled in the stable was able to tie up nitrogen. In comparison to preparations 500 and 501, which are horn manure and horn silica respectively, it became clear that both substances, basalt and eggshells in homeopathic form, ought to be included in the bio-dynamic method.

As a carrier for these three aspects we chose cow manure. Cows were restricted to roughage (e.g. hay) until the manure became well-formed. From such we make a composition of 5 buckets (no volumetric measure given), 100 grams dry, finely-crushed eggshells, and 500 grams basalt meal. This mixture is placed in a wooden tub and turned and moved with a spade for one hour; in other words "dynamized." A kind of composting is achieved by adding half of the mixture in a barrel, which has had the bottom removed. The barrel is buried 40-50 cm deep in the ground, with the remaining soil thrown around and against the exposed top. In the first half (of the mixture) we insert the compost preparations, individually arranged. Then the second half of the mass of manure is added and prepared in like manner. We finish by stirring 5 drops of valerian preparation in 1 liter of water for 10 minutes and then pouring it over (the mass) and covering the barrel with a wooden lid or board.

After about 4 weeks we turn the entire contents in the barrel with a spade and after two more weeks the cowpie preparation (barrel compost) can be used. From our research with horn manure, we use 30 grams as 1 unit stirred in 10 liter water for an area of 1/4 hectare. For the same area and amount of water we use 60 grams (of barrel compost). We achieve the best effect in soil processes after spraying three times. These can be taken from the same stirring over a period of one to two days. In terms of work efficiency, we have achieved a process of rationalization through dynamizing. Barrel compost is no substitute for horn manure, which is, after all, given to seedbeds and directly works on plants. This works much more in terms of stimulating and activating transformations? ("Umsetzungen"). It stimulates the activity of soil organisms, so that a better structure? ("Verbauung") occurs. It is advisable to spray green manure when it is worked in, when manure and compost is spread, and for fall tillage (Winderjuche). After grazed-down paddocks are sprayed, transformations? ("Umsetzungen") in the meadow soil are stimulated and regrowth supported. Comparison trials showed significant yield increases. It can be warmly recommended to practitioners.

¹ Here and elsewhere the translator has inserted a question mark for a word whose correct translation or original meaning he is unsure of. The German word follows in parentheses.

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COMPOST PREPARATION ACCORDING TO MARIA THUN'S METHOD

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The seasons of agriculture and gardening do not wait. Before the complete report on the course by Maria Thun at Ormozy in November, 1977, is finished, it seems important to us to communicate now on how to prepare the manure compost.

This is very important, because this method is meant to serve all, especially those persons who start an agricultural activity in gardening or those who are in a transitional stage from conventional to bio-dynamic farming.

Advantages

Like the classic manure compost which Mr. Rulni employed successfully in Troyes and which brought very satisfactory results for Michel Leclair and his partner, Richard, this type of compost also contains all the bio-dynamic preparations. The classic manure compost is always valuable because it receives the forces of winter in a better way; Maria Thun's method of composting manure does, however, present four advantages:

1. It can be prepared at any time.
2. It needs less time to be completed: two months instead of six months.
3. It fosters and attracts the very important humic-clay complex in a very "young," dynamic way through the application of basalt.¹

¹ Basalt is a volcanic rock, which contains all those elements which become clay after their dissolution. Basalt is the infant clay and will become a new clay. As volcanic rock it was connected with the warmth of fire. When the fire burns in the elements of the earth, they turn into ashes. Although basalt has gone through the four elements of fire, earth, water and air, one could say that basalt has been "forged" in the fire and has improved its qualities, as iron turns into steel. It then also contains gaseous elements. Clay is related to the rhythmic system, standing between sand with its tendency to acidity (related to the nerve-sense-system) and limestone, which tends towards the alkaline and is related to the metabolic system.

4. It puts the earth in a state of defense against the pernicious intrusion of radioactivity, especially against the fatal fixation of Strontium 90² in the bones; this is done through the use of the shells of fresh chicken eggs,³ whose anti-radioactive faculty is stimulated when they are decomposed by the bio-dynamic ferments. It was due to studies at the Institute of Freiburg, and exchanges with Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, that Maria Thun discovered the procedure of adding these egg-shells.

Relation with Preparations 500 and 501
It has been discovered that this compost accelerates the demineralization of soils. We want to emphasize that it allows the treating of soils from the first year onwards with preparation 500 and in certain cases with preparation 501. In fact the two preparations 500 and 501 do not go well together without prior use of the compost preparations, i.e. the sprinkling of a compost which has been inoculated with preparations 502 to 507. No doubt they have some effect, but very little in comparison with the results after the introduction of these compost preparations into the soil. This is understandable, because all the preparations together form an ensemble.

In the highest degree possible, the compost preparations draw the formative forces of the heavens in a balanced, harmonious way to the earth. "Cosmos" (from the Greek) means "order". Preparation 500 directs these cosmic forces to the soil, which is vivified through them. The result of this is a shooting growth of the roots which thus fulfill their function, which is to feed the plants from below to nourish them abundantly and in a balanced way with raw, rising sap. Preparation 501 fosters better a connection with the upward forces of the sap rising into the leaves, in that it accentuates the assimilation of the sunlight.

² Strontium attacks the warmth-system of man. The formation of the bones goes back to Saturn. Strontium attacks the marrow of the bones, the place where they regenerate themselves.

³ The egg-shell consists of calcium. This new or young calcium comes about through a Saturnian process in the hen. One could look comparatively at the membrane at the inside of the egg-shell and the ozonosphere around the earth.

Quantity with Quality

In bio-dynamic agriculture, quantity increases parallel to quality as far as the limit decided by nature itself. However, this "ceiling" is higher than one would have imagined. In fact, when the bio-dynamic method is well-applied, there is no inverse proportion between quantity and quality. In other words, quantity does not diminish when quality increases.

Did not Liebig, who was misunderstood in his time, say that the world existed of countless forces? The issue is to find the means to draw these forces to the earth. This is what bio-dynamic agriculture does: it seeks to draw formative, cosmic forces to the earth by means of the compost preparations, communicating them to the plant through preparations 500 and 501.

The method of manure compost developed by Maria Thun is a means of letting these cosmic forces descend more quickly and of making them more accessible. It is therefore a very important technique to be disseminated today among bio-dynamic growers.

Ingredients

The preparation of the compost can be done by anyone who really wants to. The ingredients needed are: manure (preferably fresh or collected fresh and kept humid until use), powder of basalt, powder of dried egg-shells (taken from raw eggs), and the six bio-dynamic preparations, 502 to 507. The manure and the egg-shells may have a non-"organic" origin, if one cannot arrange this otherwise in the first year. The bio-dynamic preparations will help to increase their biologic quality and to further their depollution.

If given sufficient notice in advance, bakeries and pastry shops can provide great quantities of egg-shells, especially during holiday times.

Material

The only material needed is a wooden barrel without lid and bottom; the size of the barrel depends on the quantity desired. Several people can always cooperate; with the help of his friends a farmer or gardener can prepare the manure compost for several families at his place. The barrel is preferable because of its form which is egg-shaped and without angles. However, if a barrel is not available, one can also use a kind of box without bottom made out of four panels.

At a place protected from excess hot or cold temperature, a hole is dug deep enough so that half of the barrel or casket can be

placed below the level of the earth. The earth which has been dug out of the hole is added around the outside of the barrel or casket in a soft slope towards its upper edge.

It is preferable to use an old barrel or old wood, which has lost its tension. If you use a barrel which previously contained alcohol (e.g. wine), pickles, or any other preservative, you must fill it with water and let this sit for eight days. Following this, wash it well with "Jesive St. Marc" (lye, made of resin and ashes — Na CO₃) and rinse with stinging nettle water (one quart of stinging nettle — *Urtica dioica*⁴ — concentrate, diluted in ten quarts of water). Then empty the barrel and wait for violet fungi to appear on the walls of the barrel.

Time of Preparation

It is best to dig the hole and to install the barrel on a fine day, in the afternoon, preferably during the time of waning moon. One should absolutely avoid difficult days; Maria Thun has observed bad effects. Difficult days are, as a rule, all days of nodes, moon-nodes (two per month), nodes of Mercury, Venus and all the planets. The best periods to prepare the compost are spring and autumn.

Preparation of the Compost

The proportions of the ingredients are: 5 buckets (a bucket of 10 liters or approximately 10 quarts) of manure, 500 grams (= 1.1025 Av. Pds.) of basalt powder, and 100 grams (= 0.2205 Av. Pds.) of powder of egg-shells.

These three ingredients are potentized together by mixing them for one hour with a shovel — or several at the same time, if you have help — as a mason would mix his mortar. In this way, one brings air rhythmically into the mass; 21% of the volume should be oxygen, which will support the life and aerobic fermentations in this compost, and 78% nitrogen, which functions as an animator of all processes and fixates itself through assimilable microbes, a fermentation which will develop its full effect in the soil. This fermentation is in fact held back in the manure compost, as in all

⁴ Harvest the nettle on a beautiful spring day before it blossoms. Let it dry. Take a big handful of dried stinging nettle and put it into rain-water. Leave it for one week. Then, and every two weeks thereafter, add a small handful of dried stinging nettle.

other fermentations, due to lack of vital space. This momentary holding back is a guarantee of strong expansion when the conditions become favorable. In the same way winter, with its accumulation of life-forces, provokes spring when conditions become favorable.

The potentizing should preferably be done in a tub or trough, otherwise on a place of stamped earth.

Maria Thun made the experiment of not mixing the ingredients for one hour during the process of preparation. She found out that she then had to first dilute the mass with water before using it, stirring in one direction and then in the other, in order to obtain good results.

On the contrary, the paste-like mass, mixed for one hour, has to be potentized in water for only twenty minutes at the time of use, in the same way as it is done for the valerian.

Bring the potentized mixture into the barrel or box until it is half-full. Then, with a stick, make five holes in the surface and insert each of the compost preparations (as much as a big pea or a little cherry) into the holes, which are to be closed afterwards. Valerian is injected into the sixth hole. This preparation⁵ (3 drops of good concentrated valerian in 10 liters — 21 pints or 10½ quarts — of water) has been potentized in water that is slightly lukewarm or of stable temperature (exposed to air for two weeks). The valerian is potentized through rotation in one direction until a vortex is reached, and then in the other direction for 15 to 20 minutes. Use receptacles of wood, pottery, or enamelled metal, and fill them only half-full. Stir small quantities by hand; in this case lukewarm water is preferable.

When the six holes have been inoculated, fill the barrel or box up to 2-3 cm (2 inches) below the edge.

Then make six holes in the surface again, inoculate them with the same compost preparations (502-507) and cover the holes. The valerian water which is left over can be sprinkled over the surrounding soils, at tree plantations where one wants to support the fruits, or for protection against spring frost. Now, cover the barrel.

⁵ Valerian concentrate: the valerian is harvested on a nice day, in the morning, and pressed in such a way that it has no contact with metal. The juice is put into little bottles, which are closed with a stopper that there is almost no air left in the bottle. There will be a fermentation process. The essence is not used until six months have passed.

After one month, take the compost out — take note of its temperature — and mix it in order to homogenize it and to eliminate un-aired lumps. This can take ten minutes. After another two to three weeks, it will be ready to use.

Storage

It should be stored in a barrel or a pottery receptacle and placed in a basement or cave. It will keep for a long time. After two years it looks like a light humus and still gives good results.

Use

Use 60 grams (0.1323 Av. Pds.) for ¼ hectar (0.625 acres), potentized in 15 to 25 liters (15 to 25 quarts) of water, preferably rain water which has been exposed to the air. The potentization takes 15 to 20 minutes.

This liquid compost, a well-balanced mixture of ferments, enzymes, trace-elements, bathing in superabundant cosmic formative forces, is sprinkled over all the soils. The best seasons are autumn and the end of winter or the beginning of spring. The best moment during the month is while the moon is waning, i.e. while the moon circulates through the constellations from Gemini to Scorpio.

For All Conversions

It is Maria Thun's wish that this preparation serve every conversion, which it will facilitate. In two years, soils can be demineralized.

For All Difficult Soils

In difficult soils, full of problems, like certain limestone soils, where one asks oneself whether one should not apply nitrate, this compost combined with preparations 500 and 501 solves all the problems.

The same holds true for heavy, humid, and cold soils, where processes are very slow.

Pastures

On pastures, where some or all of the roots die each year, forming a suffocating felt if insufficient microbial life does not allow transformation to humus, Maria Thun's manure compost, combined with preparations 500 and 501, gives astonishing results, especially if the manure compost has been distributed in Cancer,