

Recommendations for Working with Crops, Sequential Spraying, and Ashing

October – December, 2009 (Recommendations for U.S.A. – E.D.T. Until November 1, Then E.S.T.)

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The times indicated are those thought to be the first choice periods for working the soil, applying the biodynamic preparations, sowing seed, or working with plants in general. Since not everyone will have an opportunity to take advantage of these periods, or will need to be working in the garden at other times, for daily indications please refer to *Stella Natura 2009* or to *The North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar 2009*. The sequential spray technique is described in *Applied Biodynamics*, Issues #6 and #25 (available from JPI for \$7.50 per issue). For greater details on the ashing technique, consult *Gardening for Life* by Maria Thun (available from JPI at \$30.00 plus postage and handling) or Issues #27 and #28 of *Applied Biodynamics* (available from JPI at \$7.50 per issue). We will have calendars for 2010 in September, including *Stella Natura 2010* at \$14.95, and *The North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar 2010* by Maria and Matthias Thun at \$13.95. Another calendar option is the 2010 *Northern Hemisphere Astro Calendar* by Keats at \$14.95. All calendar/book orders should include \$7.00 postage and handling (per order, not per title).

Eclipse/occultation events for the period:

–October 11 – Moon occults Mars @ 9:03 PM

–December 31 – Lunar Eclipse @ 2:13 PM

Best ROOT Periods

–Thursday October 15 @ 9 PM thru Monday October 19 @ 1 AM

–Thursday November 12 @ 2 AM thru Sunday November 15 @ 8 AM

–Wednesday December 9 @ 8 AM thru Saturday December 12 @ 2 PM

Best FRUIT Periods

–Tuesday October 13 @ 8 PM thru Thursday October 15 @ 5 PM

–Monday November 9 @ 2 PM thru Wednesday November 11 @ 10 PM

–Sunday December 6 @ 8 PM thru Wednesday December 9 @ 4 AM

Best LEAF Periods

–Tuesday October 20 @ 1 PM thru Thursday October 22 @ 9 PM

–Monday November 16 @ 11 PM thru Thursday November 19 @ 4 AM

–Monday December 14 @ 6 AM thru Wednesday December 16 @ 12 PM

Best FLOWER periods

–Monday October 19 @ 5 AM thru Tuesday October 20 @ 11 AM

–Sunday November 15 @ 12 PM thru Monday November 16 @ 7 PM

–Saturday December 12 @ 6 PM thru Monday December 14 @ 2 AM

Other helpful planetary support for the grower

Moon/Saturn oppositions occur on October 30 at 2:09 pm; on November 27 at 3:21 am; and on December 24 at 3:01 pm during periods when the Moon is in the constellation of Pisces/Fishes and Saturn is in the constellation Virgo/Virgin. Biodynamic practitioners in New Zealand regard the Moon/Saturn oppositions as one of the most favorable aspects for seed germination and application of the biodynamic sprays.

Since the Moon/Saturn oppositions occur during Ascending Moon periods, the Northern Hemisphere grower may be well advised to take greater notice of Moon/Jupiter oppositions which are now taking place during Descending Moon periods, which are specified as Northern Planting Time by Maria Thun, as her 50 years of plant research has established that this opposition is a particularly favorable period for crops. Accordingly, the Moon/Jupiter oppositions are listed as follows: on October 13 at 6:06 AM; on November 9 at 12:41 PM; and on December 7 at 0:22 AM.

Best SEQUENTIAL SPRAY Periods

IF MOISTURE LACKING

In addition to the periods listed above for Leaf, the following may also be suitable:

–Thursday October 29 @ 11 PM thru Sunday November 1 @ 4 PM

–Thursday November 26 @ 5 AM thru Sunday November 29 @ 2 AM

–Wednesday December 23 @ 3 PM thru Saturday December 26 @ 3 AM

Please note: Other times may require an “abbreviated sequence.” An abbreviated sequence involves a spray combining BC plus BD #500, stirred together for one hour, and applied near sunset on day one. On day two, BD #501 and #508 are stirred together for one hour and sprayed near sunrise. (Instead of BD #500 and #501, #(x)500 and #501(x) may be used in the appropriate combination with BC and BD #508 respectively with a resultant stirring time for each combination spray of only 20 minutes.)

IF MOISTURE EXCESSIVE

In addition to the periods listed above for Fruit, the following may also be suitable:

–Sunday November 1 @ 8 PM thru Tuesday November 3 @ 10 AM

–Wednesday December 16 @ 4 PM thru Saturday December 19 @ 12 AM (Avoid 2 hours before and after Moon’s upper nodal point @ 12 PM December 18)

Although the same preparations are used in cases where there is either too much or too little moisture, BD #501 and BD #508 exchange places in the sequence according to whether one is trying

to stimulate or decrease moisture. In the case of lack of moisture, BD #501 is second in the sequence and one finishes with BD #508 giving a final impulse with the preparation in the sequence that appears to relate most strongly to the watery forces. For maximum encouragement of moisture, all sprays should be applied when the Moon is in a Water (Leaf) constellation. When moisture is excessive, BD #508 takes the second place in the sequence and the last spray is BD #501, thus using a preparation that relates very strongly to a drying impulse as the final signal in the sequence. For maximum drying effect, all sprays need to be applied during a period when the Moon is in a Fire (Fruit) constellation.

This technique should not be approached from the viewpoint of “manipulating” the weather, but rather as a means to restore conditions of harmony and balance when conditions would clearly suggest that such harmony is lacking.

For ASHING OF INSECT PESTS

MOTHS

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

CABBAGE BUTTERFLIES, FLIES, WHITE FLY, MOSQUITOES, ETC.

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE, CABBAGE ROOT FLY, VARROA MITES, CHITINOUS INSECTS (I.E., GRASSHOPPERS, ETC.)

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

CUTWORMS AND MOLE CRICKETS

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

SHIELDBUGS, SLUGS AND SNAILS

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

APHIDS

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

WEEVIL

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

MITES, NON-CHITINOUS INSECTS

Most favorable constellational aspects are not present during the period.

If you are experiencing serious pest problems when conditions are not the most favorable for ashing, it is suggested that you continue to collect the desired 50–60 (more when possible) specimens and preserve them in alcohol (i.e., vodka) until a favorable time occurs. In any case, the grower should harvest a maximum of troublesome pests whenever the chance exists so as to be prepared at a future time to complete the ashing.

For ASHING OF ANIMAL PESTS

With respect to vertebrate animals, Steiner specified that the skin of the animal must be burned when the planet Venus is “in the Scorpion.” The resultant pepper is then scattered over the area

to be protected from the particular animal. The next period for a transit of Venus through Scorpio/Scorpion takes place from November 30, 2009 through December 24, 2009. Although Thun in *The Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar 2009*, on page 39 recommends November 30 (@ 10 PM EST) through December 1 (@ 9 AM EST), since this fails to meet Steiner’s criteria to accomplish the ashing at “the high conjunction” of Venus in Scorpio/Scorpion, we make the recommendation for later in the month of December. The recommended optimum dates are believed to be December 12–14, with December 14–16 another possibility since the Sun, Moon, and Venus are all in Scorpio/Scorpion.

ASHING OF WEED SEEDS

Until one can identify the particular constellation associated with the weed to be controlled, the following approach is suggested. Gather seeds of the weed in question, and ash them at the beginning of the Moon’s passage through a FIRE constellation (with Leo/Lion being first choice), preferably just before a New Moon or just before a Full Moon. The most propitious time for ashing of weed seeds (as well as application of the resultant ash) is likely when both Sun and Moon are in Leo/Lion, which in 2009 occurred August 19 at 3 pm through August 22 at 12 am. Thereafter, scatter the ashes over the area in which you wish to reduce or eliminate the weed in question. Ideally, the ash should be applied in the form of a D-8 potency (see Issue #28 of *Applied Biodynamics* for details on the potentizing process).

Application of the products of the ashing process, whether seed or pest, should probably be done just before New or Full Moon as well. For most effective results, the application should be done four consecutive times in a row, and for even greater effectiveness, this four consecutive times application could be repeated within two to four weeks. One is well advised to keep careful records of one’s experiments including both ashing and applications.