

Seed Soaks with Biodynamic Preparations

Handout Compiled by Pat Frazier

I. Selections from Applied Biodynamics, Issue #7 Spring 1994

Seed soaks are useful to help bring plants back to their connection with the plant cosmic archetype or the “blueprint” for that plant. Generally purchased seeds come from some kind of chemical background, but even organic seeds have often lost their connection to their archetype. It takes several generations for seeds to come back to their proper connection with the cosmic archetype. Seed soaks will assist this connection and help the seeds in germination and growth. This assistance happens from the moment of germination with the use of seed soaks.

Benefits are usually better germination rates and greater fruit set.

Information about seed soaking techniques can be found in greater depth in the following resources:

- Castelliz: *Life to the Land*, Lanthorn Press, 1980.
- Koepf, Pettersson & Schaumann: *Biodynamic Agriculture*, Anthroposophic Press, 1976.
- Sattler & Wistinghausen: *Biodynamic Framing Practice*, Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Asso., 1972.

For use as seed soak, stir the BD preparations for the usual time. For #500, 1 hour. For #507, 10-20 minutes. For #502-506, you can use 1 unit in 1-2 pints of water and stir vigorously for up to 5 minutes and then allow to stand for 20-24 hours. Then stir again briefly just before the actual seed treatment.

Some seeds can be treated with “manure water” - cow pat pit, barrel compost, or manure treated with the preparations 502-507.

Whole milk is also suggested in some instances to be added to the seed soak bath.

Generally the seeds should be soaked for 10-15 minutes. A bit longer is okay for hard coated seeds like carrots or parsley. But be careful with peas or beans as too long will cause the seed coat to slough off and then the seeds won't germinate at all.

After the 10 minutes or so, strain the seeds and lay them out on towels to dry. Plant them out within 24-48 hours of the soaking.

Soaking in 500 will benefit all crops, especially for root development. Much individual experimentation and testing will help perfect the technique and each farmer should use their own intuitions and see the results.

II. Additional notes 3/2011 from PF @ Peace and Plenty Farm

There are some other considerations to the above notes:

Soaking in Cow pat pit/ Barrel Compost or Pfeiffer Field Spray gives the seeds the benefit of all the compost preparations in their quest to return to their archetype.

You may ask why the choices of the next page of recommendations?

Here are some things to ponder:

The purpose of soaking the seeds in preps is to add the intelligence of their origins back to their journey from chaos to form. Consider one of the recommendations:

Legumes and Brassicas soaked in 503 – Chamomile Preparation:

The function of Chamomile preparation in the compost pile is to stimulate plant growth through Nitrogen stabilization as a result of the interaction of Calcium with Sulfur. The end communication result is Nitrogen availability.

There is much to discover in the intelligence and synergy of the compost preparations....

Consider not only soaking your seeds prior to germination but also electing to spray the seedlings as they grow at certain stages in tandem with the calendar to enhance the effect you are looking for.

SEED SOAKS WITH BIODYNAMIC PREPARATIONS

The general recommendations for seed soaks are the following:

For legumes and brassicas, use BD 503, Chamomile preparation.

For lettuce crops use BD 505, Oak Bark preparation.

For fruit crops (other than legumes) use BD 507, Valerian preparation.

For all other crops, specific recommendations are given below.

CEREALS

wheat	507	celeriac	507
rye	502	celery	507
oats	505	chard	500
barley	504	chicory	507
rice	?	collards	503
corn (maize)	507	cucumber	507
millet	?	eggplant	? likely 507
linseed	503	garlic	? likely 507
		kale	503

COVER CROPS

alfalfa	503	kohlrabi	503
clover	503	leek	507
grasses	502	lettuce	505
		melon	? likely 507
		mustard green	503

FLOWERS

sunflowers	Barrel Compost (BC)	okra	507
other flowers	?	onion	507
		parsley	?
		parsnip	?

HERBS

herbs	?	peas, English	503
		peas, field	503
		peanuts	? likely 507

VEGETABLES

artichoke	?	peppers	507
arugula	?	potatoes	? BC
asparagus	?	pumpkin	507
beans	503	radish	503
bush beans	505	rutabaga	? likely 503
beets	507 or 507 + BC or 1 part BC + 4 parts water + 5 parts whole milk, stand 24 hrs., stir 5 min. prior to use	scallion	507
broccoli	503	spinach	500
brussel sprout	503	squash	? likely 507
cabbage	503	sweet potato	? likely 500
cantaloupe	507	turnip	503
carrot	507 or as for beets	tomato	507
		watermelon	? likely 507