

Potentised Preparations

MARK MOODIE

What are potentised preparations?

The 'traditional' biodynamic preparations are usually stirred and then sprayed over the fields, or placed in muck heaps. However, a constant companion over the 100 year history of biodynamics are these same preparations that have been potentised like homeopathic remedies¹ before being applied in agriculture.

Recent research

At the research day in Dornach (6 Feb 2024) before the main conference, the impact of such potencies was shared. Benjamin Eppler² presented his research³ comparing the impact of traditional field sprays to the potentised versions. By the standards established by decade-long evaluation of the form of grape clusters, the soil organisms and chromatograms, they are essentially the same.⁴

His conclusion:

- The use of potentized preparations shows similar phenomena to those known from Geisenheim.
- The treatments biodynamically potentised and traditional BD differ to the same extent from an organic control.
- A more frequent use of potentized preparations shows clearer results compared to the traditional biodynamic and equivalent treatment systems.

Then Angela Hoffman used Prof Saber Hendawey's presentation⁵ to show the impact on the yield of basil seeds. The trials at Sekem⁶ compared no preps, standards preps, potentised preps and potentised preparations used more frequently. The traditional preparations slightly increased the yield (32g to 38g). The potentised preps yielded 54g, the more frequent potentised preparations 52g. A second harvest gave confirmatory results.

The third presentation showed fields of sweetcorn⁷ at Sekem. Where the potentised preparations were used the darker green plants showed their impact compared to the paler plants under traditional preparations. This result was less straight forward in that the traditional preps increased various soil microorganisms but didn't improve the plants to the same extent, whilst the potentised preparations helped the plant without impacting what those microorganisms.

Glen Atkinson⁸ then offered the briefest of glimpses into his 50 years of work with potentised preparations. He showed 3 striking independently assessed results - trials undertaken by the NZ government's own HortResearch laboratories⁹ - demonstrating 20% increased photosynthesis, reduced bird damage around fruit, and the reduction in frost damage.

More immediately impressive were his photos of 3 kale plants encouraged to leaf by some of the preparations, encouraged to seed by others, and one initially encouraged to leaf and later resprayed to go to seed.

In Italy,¹⁰ amongst other much more fundamental results, one simple test often hits home. Potentised preparations were sprayed on half a split chicory whilst the other half had only water. They were then photographed over the next 19 hours.

In the UK there have also been remarkable results with potentised preparations. In a trial at Hungary Lane Farm through the experimental circle in 2012, the lab-measured phosphorus was increased 60%¹¹ - not bad for water! At a farm near Ashbourne the silage contractor could only fit 2 strips of grass into his baler where all the surrounding farms required 4 strips, such was the yield. The only difference was 2 litres of potentised BD preparations poured into the vast slurry lagoon.¹²

Unsurprisingly, all the practitioners involved in this work



Glen Atkinson with his Kale plants.

acknowledge Lili Kolisko's pioneering work on 'smallest entities' as outlined in 'Agriculture of Tomorrow'¹³ as the foundation for their own work. However, even within BD circles there has been resistance to potentisation right from the beginning. Despite the praise for Lili Kolisko's work by Dr Steiner, even in his agriculture lectures, Dr Pfeiffer called her book 'a grave problem'¹⁴. Despite the dramatic results outlined above one wonders whether there'll be a stampede to their adoption. History would suggest not but I'd be delighted to be wrong.

Eppler offered a summary of the advantages of potentised preparations which I have augmented:

- Long storage life (years)
- No need to dynamize - just spray
- Very cost-effective
- Great for very small areas
- Effective
- Can be made at home
- Increased options for 'aiming ones shots'

Note: A copy of this article including pictures can be obtained from <https://considera.org/downloads/PotPreps.pdf>

Mark Moodie is a researcher living in the Forest of Dean. See: www.considera.org/

1. <https://www.considera.org/HFPYR.php>
2. <https://aquisol.bio/pages/uber-uns>
3. https://www.considera.org/downloads/Forschung_2024-GobbledeeGoogled.pdf
4. Meißner, Georg (2015): Geisenheimer Reports, Vol. 76 - Studies on various management systems in viticulture, Geisenheim
5. <https://www.considera.org/downloads/slideshows/EffectOfDifferentMethodsForApplyingBDPreps.pptx>
6. <https://sekem.com/en/index/>
7. <https://www.considera.org/downloads/slideshows/PotentizedPreparationsOnCornSilage.pptx>
8. <http://www.bdmx.co.nz/>
9. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HortResearch>
10. <https://enзонastati.it>
11. <https://moodie.biz/product/phosphorus/>
12. <https://www.considera.org/materiamedicagrigultura.php?remtype=2&rem=265>
13. <https://www.koliskoarchive.com/download-agriculture-of-tomorrow.php>
14. <https://considera.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PfeifferToMacKinnon.pdf>