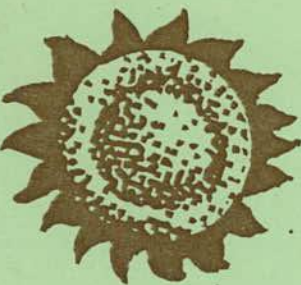


mondo grass - Japanese gravel cover  
doesn't need cutting

MARCH/APRIL 1995

\$2.50



# HERB GROWER

Published bi-monthly by the ORGANIC HERB GROWERS OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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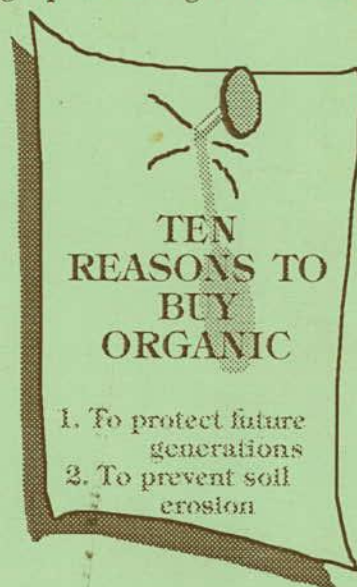
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## OHGA PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN NEEDED FOR ORGANICS

The OHGA committee has decided that a public awareness campaign to promote organics in general and OHGA in particular, would be of benefit to all members. A budget has been allocated and, at a special, often hilarious meeting, three bumper stickers were designed, and later executed by OHGA's graphic design whiz Greg Furney. These have now been printed and you, the members, will receive one free bumper sticker each. It is hoped that you will all buy a few more to stick on your tractor, second car, bike or any other spot where it will be noticed.

There are still publications and organisations that seem to be unaware of OHGA ◇

when mentioning certification bodies and we don't want to be overlooked any longer. We are also thinking of an OHGA herb poster to go to healthfood shops, greengrocers etc.



Continued on page 21

## ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Paddock on Top, Market report, Organic News, Dehydrator Offer, Observations, Letters, Interesting stories, Field day, Back issues and much more.....



The  
Koala Tea  
Company

# No Worries Tea

*Lemon grass, lemon balm,  
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Australian tea with  
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## NO WORRIES TEA

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## EDITORIAL



As I'm writing this, the rain has been bucketing down for days. The drought is definitely over. Amazing how we can long for this kind of weather and when it's here, we get fed up with it so quickly! If I didn't have the HERB GROWER to finish off, I'd go nutty inside. And I've found out that my little Suzuki jeep doesn't like the weather either. It behaves very strangely on wet roads and I've been skidding all over the place. How suggested we put a bag of cement in the back to weigh it down a bit.

We heard an interesting tidbit the other day. You know how Monsanto are always claiming that they're such an environmentally aware company? Well, their claim is probably based on the fact that GREENING AUSTRALIA receive all the Roundup they want for their programs for free! I guess that's the way these chemical companies keep governments on their side. I know of some people who have been in the Greening Australia programs and who were objecting to all the Roundup being used. I find it ridiculous, to put it mildly. There are so many unemployed people this program could use to do the weeding by hand and still they use chemicals! Greening indeed!

On the homefront, Howard and I are having an interesting time in business. When we entered KT (our name for The Koala Tea Co.) into the Woolworths, we were told that the big tea companies would not like it, as they are all putting out herbal teas themselves. Well, we have now been told that one multinational already has a file on us and that they've tried their utmost to keep us out of Coles. They haven't succeeded though. KT is now on sale in Coles supermarkets in Victoria, NSW and Queensland. I guess we're playing in the big league now. The teas have also arrived on the west coast of the US, and our importer has already warned us about the big American company, you know the one with the funny tea names who, according to him, are not going to take it lying down! I'll keep you posted.

There has been much moaning in the agricultural world about what they call 'super bugs' who have become resistant to their chemicals. Well, whose fault is that? They have been throwing all sorts of poisons at these insects, at higher and higher rates, I guess their brains must have been affected by them too. They will take absolutely no responsibility whatsoever for the state of agriculture and the condition of the land and the waterways. If only people knew the extent to which chemicals are used on their food, I bet they would all rush to their nearest organic food shop and pay a bit more. OTGA received a notice that our growers could have their blood tested for levels of chemicals. Ha! We just chuckled it, we don't need that. Isn't it great!

No word yet on the NFA and domestic organic standards. We heard from Ruth Lovisolo that AQIS is still working on them to do the right thing and require organics to be certified by one of the government accredited organisations. And what are we going to do about this haircare range called 'Organics'? The way things stand at the moment, the word 'organic' means absolutely nothing here. We're all working our guts out to do the right thing and those bureaucrats, or at least the majority of them, ignore us completely. I can feel a trip to Canberra coming on! The problem is that, unlike the chainsaw murderers, we don't have logging companies and multinationals paying our way and our salaries, pitiful as they are. One thing we can all do is bug the NFA with letters and phone calls. The address again:

National Food Authority, Standards Liaison Officer, Box 7186, Canberra Mail Centre 2610.

Phone: (06) 271 2219. The application no. A214 must be quoted.

The residential address is Macquarie House, 55 Blackall St, BARTON 2600

The phone there is (06) 271 2222, the fax is (06) 271 2278.

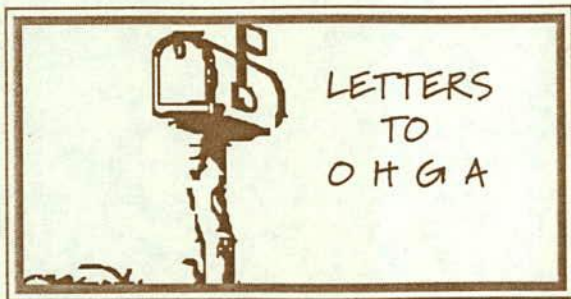
The head of the NFA is called Peter Tough, if you want to try and get to the top. In any dealings with them, always quote the application no. A214. You know what sticklers for numbers and files bureaucrats are. Indulge them.

Hope you like this issue; till next time.

All articles in the HERB GROWER remain copyright and may only be reproduced with the prior consent of the Editor.

Copy deadline for the May issue is April 1st (no joke!)





OHGA was not aware that we could take out a group subscription, but we have done it straightaway as a service to our members. We're not quite sure how it works yet, but will no doubt find out soon. I have taken the opportunity to include an article on BD preps in this issue.

Hi Howard,

Enclosed is my completed survey form and a copy of a letter from BioDynamic Farming and Gardening Association Australia Inc. (BFGA). I felt compelled to send you the letter as certain comments refer to OHGA. I'm sure you are aware of their offer. To put you into the picture, I was a member of their association, but since joining OHGA I can't afford to be a member of both, so I resigned from BFGA. I would, however, like to have access to some of their preparations so I wrote to BFGA asking if this was possible and hence their reply. I would like to continue using BioDynamic production methods.

Kind regards, D. Wright, Morayfield.

*Following is the letter Darryl received from them.*

Dear Darryl,

Unfortunately we cannot supply preparations to non-members of our Association. Members of our Association subsidise the price of preps by voluntary labour and their membership subscriptions. Supplying preps to non-members would be a dangerous precedent.

A possible option for you would be either to join a local BD group who, as a group have taken out membership of our Association, or to ask The Herb Growers of Australia to join our Association as a group. (\$100/year), which would allow their members to receive the BD preparations from us. You are able to purchase the newsleafs from us for \$16/year (4 issues) and the Astro-Calendar for \$10/year, incl. postage.

I hope you can find an option which serves you and are able to continue growing herbs of Biodynamic quality.

We would be keen to work with The Herb Growers of Australia, would they wish to include a Biodynamic standard into their certifying program.

Yours sincerely, Alan B. Johnstone (secretary)  
Bio-dynamic Farming and Gardening Association  
in Australia Inc.  
P O Box 54, Bellingen 2454.

## ORGANIC SURVEY

The Federal Government have organised for consultants Hassel & Ass. to undertake a production census and market research of the Australian organics industry.

OHGA was asked to take part in the survey in December of last year, but then there was some confusion about it.

Alex Podolinsky, of the BioDynamic Research Institute, another national certifying body, urged us not to take part, as Hassel & Ass. had applied to OPAC to also become a national certifying body and the survey was clearly a conflict of interest.

Hassel & Ass. is a Sydney firm of agricultural consultants and not a grower group. They had been hired by the government for a number of surveys.

We put the question to them: Have you applied to become a national certifying body? and the answer was: Yes, but only for cotton.

So we then decided to take a look at the survey forms. Was there anything specific that they could use for their own advantage? We couldn't find it. Still, after we talked about it extensively in committee and it was time to decide, do we co-operate or not, I voted against because I really respect Alex and his judgment because if he smells a rat, there usually is one.

Of course I was voted down. Howard put up a really good argument for co-operating and said that OHGA had been ignored for so long, we should have our name on the survey when it is completed. We should, however, control it all and not give Hassel our membership list but do the work ourselves. (With the result that the one voting against has done all the work so far!)

So this is why you, the certified growers, and a good cross section of the rest of the membership (150 kits went out) received these forms. I'm tallying up all the results and will publish them when they're all in.

Thank you to all who have so readily participated.

- Elle

HERB GROWER



# BIO-DYNAMIC PREPARATIONS AND THE ART OF COMPOST MAKING

---

Bio-Dynamics is a method of organic farming based on the principles laid out by Rudolf Steiner in a series of lectures in the 1920's.

It makes use of a number of preparations or "preps", which are made of minute quantities of material, diluted preferably in spring water or clean rainwater and stirred in a certain way. The method could be seen as a homoeopathic treatment of the soil. The preps are made in much the same way as homoeopathic medicines.

There are eight preps in use by bio-dynamic farmers:

- 500 - made from treated cow-manure
- 501 - made from very finely ground quartz, silica, orthoclase or feldspar
- 502 - made from yarrow flowers
- 503 - made from chamomile flowers
- 504 - made from stinging nettles
- 505 - made from oak bark
- 506 - made from dandelion flowers
- 507 - made from valerian flowers
- 508 - made from the common horsetail

Preps 502 to 507 are used in the compost heap. Bio-dynamic farmers place great emphasis on compost making, induced by the following remarks by Rudolf Steiner:

"To manure the earth is to make it alive so that the plant may not be brought into a dead earth and find it difficult, out of its own vitality, to achieve all that is necessary up to the fruiting process.

"In compost we have a means of kindling the life within the earth itself. We include in compost any kind of refuse to which little value is attached; refuse of farm and garden, from grass that we have let decay, to that which comes from fallen leaves and the like, even from dead animals.

"Whenever in a given locality you have a general level or niveau, separating what is above the earth from the interior, all that is raised above this normal level of the district will show a special tendency to life - a tendency to permeate itself with ethereal vitality. Hence you will find it easier to permeate ordinary inorganic mineral earth with fruitful humus substance or with any waste product in process of decomposition -

you will find it easier to do this if you erect mounds of earth, and permeate these with the said substance. For then the earthly material itself will tend to become inwardly alive - akin to the plant nature."

He suggested certain preparations which were to be inserted into the heaps in order to "produce an excellent manure - whether from liquid manure, or ordinary farmyard manure, or compost".

References to composting can be found in the records of antiquity. To this accumulated wisdom and practical experience Rudolf Steiner intended the bio-dynamic method to be added as a supplement.

## Ingredients of the heap

Just as the housewife requires certain ingredients in specific amounts, carefully mixed, and baked at the right temperature to produce food for human beings, so does the compost-maker require a variety of materials mixed in certain proportions, and then allows them to mature within certain temperatures to provide food for the soil life.

**Refuse** of all kinds: anything capable of decomposition - green plants, withered plants, old hay, straw, tea leaves, coffee grounds, vegetable trimmings, old woollen goods etc.

**Nitrogenous material** is necessary, which can be provided by way of animal manure, dried blood, hoof and horn meal, meat or fish scraps, lawn mowings, pea and bean waste.

**Old compost or soil**, about 10% of the heap, should be added.

**Lime**, a sprinkling only, like dusting icing sugar onto a cake.

**Water**, this is best included as the heap is built. There should be no dry pockets in the heap, but the material should not be so soggy that all air is expelled from the heap.

**Air** must be present in the heap, so the material must not be so tight that air is excluded. The material should not be in a "fluffy condition". Long, strawy material tends to be too light and airy, whereas lawn mowings or leaves settle into compact dense layers. These should be mixed with different type of material.

**Covering** for the heap: this could be soil about 10 cm thick, granulated peat, lawn mowings or similar substances. To keep the temperature even,



it would be worthwhile to cover the heap with an overcoat of straw or bracken.

### Building the heap

The volume of the heap will depend on the amount of material available but the dimensions of the heap are determined by the requirements of the processes going on inside. A wide, high heap will not allow sufficient air to penetrate to all parts of the heap: the centre of such a heap will be so compacted that an anaerobic fermentation will take place leading to poor quality humus. There is a minimum size below which the heap cannot maintain sufficient life, either keep the right temperature or by drying out too easily. A base area of 1sqm. is the minimum size for any heap.

Start it by putting down a layer of plant refuse up to 20 cm thick, sprinkle it with some blood and bone and cover with a thin layer of soil, to be followed by a sprinkle of lime or dolomite. Repeat in this order.

While building up the heap over a period of time, the partially finished heap should be protected by a covering of straw, reed mats or sacking, which is removed when other material is added. The finished heap should be given a covering of soil, peat or lawn mowings. The biodynamic preps are then inserted.

### Using the preparations in the heaps

Preps 502-506 are solids, but 507 is in liquid form. Collectively they are known as "a set of compost preparations".

In using these preps one must not think purely in quantitative terms of substance added to a compost heap, but also of the working of forces and processes where it is not the weight of the preparation that is important, but its presence as carrier or channel for the working of these processes. Individual portions of each prep are very small, a pinch of each is enough to treat several tons of compost.

A set is used for the treatment of each heap. The preps are not mixed together and placed in one hole, but each individual prep is placed in a separate hole evenly spaced around the heap. The holes are made 30-45 cm deep pointing towards the central core of the heap, with a crowbar or thin stake, waggling it about to make a reasonably clear hole. A level teaspoon of the preparation can then be placed in the bottom of the hole, using a spoon tied to a stick, or the prep can be made into a ball with a little mature compost or fine soil and dropped to the bottom of the hole, which should now be filled with old compost, soil or the material of the heap pushed inwards to close the hole, making sure that the prep is in contact with its surroundings and not just sitting in an air space.

Prep 507 is added to about a gallon of

water, preferably rain water, that has been made lukewarm. Stir vigorously for 10 minutes and then spray the liquid over the whole heap. If soil is available, cover the heap with a thin layer, or use peat or grass mowings, followed by a layer of straw, bracken or other protective material.

If a heap is built in one operation, the individual preps can be inserted in their appropriate places when the heap is about halfway finished. This saves the trouble of making the holes afterwards, and all that has to be done is to apply 507 when it's finished.

If it takes a considerable time to build the heap, as in domestic gardens, it is worthwhile spacing half a set of preps when the heap is about one third of its finished height and covering it with a layer of compost. The remainder can be inserted when the heap is completed, the surface sprayed with 507 and the protective covering put on.

### Using 500 and 501

For one acre a minimum of 45 grs. of 500 is stirred with 10 ltr. of lukewarm water. Of 501 only about 1 gram (tip of pen knife) is required.

The container used for stirring must be very clean and free from all forms of contamination. Depending upon the quantity to be stirred, choose an earthenware crock, a wooden bucket or barrel, copper, stainless steel or enamel buckets or tanks. Galvanised utensils are not so satisfactory, and if there is not an alternative to a plastic container, then choose one of the hard plastic types.

Spring water or clean rainwater is best but if chlorinated mains water is the only source available, it should be left exposed to the sun for several days and given occasional vigorous stirrings to get rid of the chlorine.

Raise the temperature of the water to blood temperature in the container, which should be big enough to avoid splashing when the contents are being stirred vigorously. Add the required amount of the preparation. In the case of 500 rub it between thumb and fingers in the water, so that it is broken down very finely. Stir with a firm stick, the length depends on whether you prefer to stand or sit at the job. A few twigs can be fastened to the end of the stick, *besom* fashion, to make the stirring more effective.

### Method of stirring

The method of stirring is very important. Stir briskly until a deep crater is formed in the rotating liquid, then quickly reverse the direction of the stirring and continue until the deep crater is formed once more. Again reverse the direction of stirring, and continue this alternation of direction of stirring for one hour, so that the



reversal of the liquid into solid upon itself in both 50, 50A and 59A could be based within  
a settling chamber turbulence at the end of the three hours stirring, the more the better. It is  
hours strain the liquid into prayer through sales to keep them over night for as use the  
check the bottom of the container so all the pressure following day.  
sprayers.

### Sprayer for fungal diseases

The effect of 50000 is promote root Equisetum varves (Equisetum telmateia) and activity and stimulate soil micro life, regulate effect as preparation 500500 is bring to the the tim and nitrogen content of the soil and help 25g of the dried herb about one hr of in the release of trace elements. It should watered all over in summer for 20 mins and then let the used moist soil before ploughing standard for 24 hr. Strain and add sufficient water or when cultivating barrowing where need to make it 1st 500-10-15 min the same way sowing on soil where plants are to be described for the the spray spray with a transplant it is used grassland after mist spray when the weather conditions are grazing after the hay cutting silage and again such that fungi will attack and lower when the pasture is at rest. surfaces of the leaves should be sprayed at 2

Spraying should be done on an even cast, day and night, and during the evening. The soil should be moist, and the weather should be of course be a little.

In the garden should be based on all this is an extract of the Handbook on open ground spring chaptanas, as well as for Compositing and the Body Human Preparations, all above ground and transplanting. Fruit grows by the George Corripublished the the Dynamic should spray all planting holes when establishing a Agricultural Association in 1976 an orchard of fruit plantation.

Preparation 500500 is used only when 500500 already has been given and the plant is developing strongly. Avoiding in the spray too early in the life of a plant. A rule of thumb would be to apply the spray, which must be the finest mist possible, when the part of the plant developing which will be harvested, i.e. if growing roots, they should be sprayed when the roots are penicillin for lettuce when the heart is forming, etc. Tomatoes should receive several sprays, the first flowering together when the fruit has set and again when the fruit is coloring.

Grasshoppers should be sprayed 4 days after spraying with 50:50 DDT spray as early in the growth of the nymphs as possible. Wait until the leaves are fully formed.

Formerly it was always used to spray 50/50 during the morning hours on sunny days. This still is used and advised because the "Sil'Gid spray" is strongly connected with the high metabolism of the plant but recent work has shown that there is also a corresponding stimulation in the afternoon with a restricted and mild day experience has shown that the ripening processes and tuber formation is enhanced when the spray is used in the late afternoon or evening.

Do not spray frost by rainy weather and always use the finest mist

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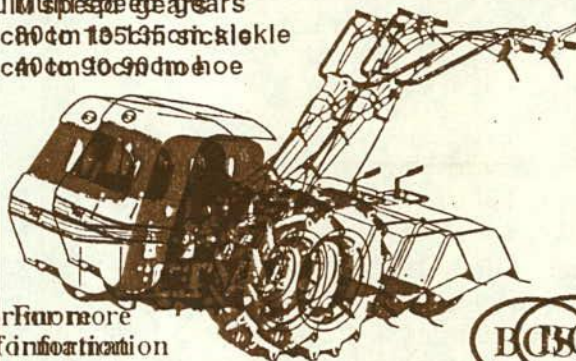
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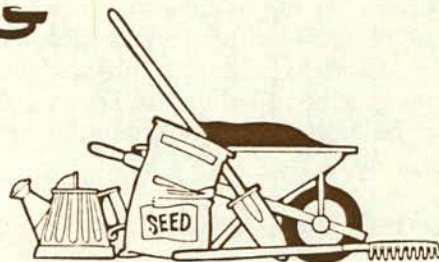
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# GARDENING by the MOON



by Elle Fikke-Rubin

## MARCH

17 Full Moon, take the day off.

18-23 Days to work with rootcrops, perennial plants, bushes and trees. This is the time to start planting spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, grape hyacinths, blue bells, and anemones; in cold areas tulips and hyacinths should go in too, but in others these can wait a bit longer. These are also the days to divide perennial herbs, either by root cuttings (valerian, burdock, feverfew, horseradish) or by taking heel cuttings (rosemary, lavender). Oregano, thyme, mint and most other perennial herbs can also be split up now.

24 Last Quarter, another day of rest. You know, it just dawned on me that the phases of the moon are probably the original seventh days of rest! It is one of the rules of lunar gardening that no work is to be done on full moon, new moon and the first and last quarters. Interesting!

25-30 This the time for harvesting your herbs and drying them for winter. Also for weeding and cultivating. If you are planning on planting a green manure crop soon, these are the perfect days for preparing your soil.

31 New Moon, another day off.

## APRIL

1-7 Tuesday to Thursday is not really good, but Saturday to Monday is OK and Friday is excellent for planting and sowing leafy annuals. This would be a good time for sowing those green manures. I'm sure you know the benefits of green manures by now, but in case they've slipped your mind, here they are again: they fix large amounts of nitrogen into the soil and enrich the soil with other nutrients and trace minerals; they improve the soil structure and the biological

activity in the soil; they suppress weeds and, after being turned in, supply the soil with organic material. Good stuff! Some green manure crops that can be planted now are oats, lupins and vetches. Enquire about others in your area at your agricultural supply store.

Other crops to plant now are parsley, spinach, lettuces, chinese cabbage, the japanese herbs such as mitsuba and mizuna, mustard greens, rocket and dill.

8 First Quarter.

9-14 Days for seedbearing annuals and flowers: dill, coriander, cumin and aniseed. Vegies such as beans and peas, broccoli, cauliflower and other cabbages, and in warmer areas tomatoes.

In the flower department: calendulas, bellflowers, nasturtiums, cornflowers, carnations and dianthus, hollyhock, larkspur and many others.

15 Full Moon on this Easter Saturday.

16-21 In particular Sunday and Monday, these days are for rootcrops and perennials. Definitely the last chance to get your flower bulbs in for a spring show. Also a good time to sow perennial herbs such as chicory, dandelion, mint, oregano, thyme etc etc. Vegetables to be planted are onions, radishes, leeks, carrots, potatoes, parsnips and other rooting ones.

22 Last Quarter.

23-29 This is a good time to clean up your garden and garden. trim herbs and bushes and perhaps some trees. I'll be doing that as I don't want the garden as shady in winter as I like it in summer. Feeding the garden up is another job. I will be wheeling my barrow full of rock dust and Organic Life about. I will take some pH tests here and there to check that out and, if found to be below 5.5, I will also scatter some lime.



All of that will be followed by adding compost and mulching.

A lot to do and great weather to do it in. I love autumn!

30 New Moon (and in some places a total eclipse of the Sun!)

## MAY

1-7 Especially Thursday to Sunday is a good time to plant or sow annual leafy crops.

Cabbages, hardy lettuces, parsley, rocket, cresses of all kinds including mustard greens, dill and coriander.

8 First Quarter.

9-14 Days for seedbearing annuals and flowers. Dill and coriander, again, can be planted, and also beans and peas. Flower-wise this is the busiest month. Amaranths, violas, pansies, english daisies, stocks, alyssum and all the others mentioned last month should be planted now.

**HAVE FUN!**

### CERTIFIED ORGANIC by TONY ULLMAN

It has taken a long time for OHGA to receive the report from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service on the audit they performed on our certification system in March of last year.

Set out in this report are the changes which they require us to make in order to assure that our certification system conforms to the National Standards.

Firstly the changes to our Standards for Organic Certification booklet:

1. Paragraph 1.1 has been amended to cover other organically grown farm produce in addition to herbs.

*As a result the Appraisal for certification form will now request that applicants identify the produce for which certification is sought and the Grade A certificates will be altered to specify the crops covered.*

2. A paragraph 1.5 has been included which states that our standards are based on, and comply with, the National Standard for Organic and BioDynamic Produce.

3. An addition under section 2. (which sets out definitions for the purposes of our booklet) to define the National Standards for Organic and BioDynamic Produce as the document developed by AQIS/OPAC, which sets out the basic requirements for organic production standards.

4. A paragraph 5.12 has been included which states that we shall carry out random inspections of 5% of the certified properties annually.

*I should point out that since these random inspections are only required in order to keep our system up to AQIS standards, there will be no charge to the individual growers who are lucky enough to receive an additional visit during the year.*

The Farm Inspection Report must now include comments by the inspector on the type and condition of the soil within the growing area.

Lastly, we will no longer be issuing certificates to those growers who are at the **In Conversion** stage of their certification process. This last change to the system in no way downgrades the In Conversion status. The only difference from the grower's point of view is that they now only receive a letter confirming their organic status and giving them their certification number.

These growers will still be entitled to sell their produce as "Certified In Conversion to Organic", and be entitled to quote their registration number to buyers.

---

**Good news:** Tony just certified Bill Mollison's Permaculture Institute in Tyalgum NSW. They're setting up a 6-months Skillshare growing course and hope that the graduates of that course will lease plots to grow organic vegetables and herbs.

---

## NATUROPATHY OFFICIAL

Naturopathy has finally received recognition as an official study. Despite enormous opposition from allopathic medicine circles, Lismore's Southern Cross University has this year started it's Naturopathy study. It is the first university in Australia to offer this degree course.



# - SEEDS -

## Part 2

### WHAT IS GOING ON

Scientists estimate that the global market for transgenic biopesticides (genetically engineered organisms) could exceed US\$8 billion a year; developing plants to tolerate herbicides could be worth US\$6 billion. The entire market for genetically-engineered plant varieties could top US\$14 billion.

Using gold-and-tungsten-tipped micro bullets just 1,000th of a millimetre across and coated with DNA, CSIRO scientists are able to shoot 'designer' genes into wheat seeds. The bullets also contain a marker gene for herbicide resistance: the CSIRO claims it is solely a 'success indicator' for field trials - the wheat is sprayed with herbicide and only the transgenic plants will survive.

This is a major breakthrough as it is the first successful gene-splicing of a cereal-crop. Until now, wheat had required laborious cross-breeding to breed out the many undesirable genes that result from hybridisation. A Queensland University team, led by Prof Ken Scott, developed the micro-pellet gun technique with the assistance of multinational giant DuPont, which designed the method. Australia, as one of the world's primary producers, has been at the forefront in the development of genetically-engineered seeds.

Another process, developed with Chinese microbiologist Dr Ding Gang He, involves passing an electric current through the seed to open the pores of the wheat protoplasm enough to allow foreign DNA cells to enter.

The techniques are set to revolutionise world agriculture by allowing the creation of tailor-made food crops.

CSIRO researchers have already spliced a tobacco plant gene into sheep. This causes sweat glands to secrete chitinase, an enzyme that kills blowfly larvae by dissolving the chitin that protects an insect's endoskeleton.

A scandalous incident involving transgenics occurred in Australia from '88-'90. An Adelaide University team attempted to develop transgenic pigs by splicing in an extra growth hormone gene that would lift the animals' food conversion efficiency by 30%: the pigs grew faster, yielded fat-free pork and were able to reach market seven weeks earlier than usual.

Later the transgenic pigs were sold to an abattoir from where the meat was distributed and sold to Adelaide butcher shops. Consumers were not informed and it took two

years for the truth to emerge.

The outcry from anti-genetic engineering and animal rights activists led to a public inquiry which found that the original transgenes had failed to function, so the pigs bred from those originally genetically manipulated were, in fact, not transgenic. This was merely coincidental.

Tooheys and Carlton & United have funded the development of transgenic yeasts that can offer low-calorie beer. They are expected to be in use by the year 2000.

Rennin, made with transgenic bacteria, is already being used in cheese production.

Transgenic tomatoes are under trial in the UK and Unifoods Ltd are conducting similar trials here in Australia. Unilever is developing long-shelf life, out of season, anti-rot tomatoes for the North American and Asian markets.

The Australian push for genetic engineering came from the country's desire to be at the forefront of high-tech industries. Here was established one of the world's first Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committees in 1975, made up of scientists and academics from the CSIRO, the Australian Academy of Science and leading universities.

Intense lobbying by biotechnologists led to the government creating the National Biotechnology Program Research Grant Scheme and last year the government handed over \$100 million for research into genetic engineering.

Half of the CSIRO's divisions now include work on genetic engineering. More than 120 projects, costing \$30 million and employing 200 scientists, were carried out in 1988 alone. More than 70% of projects involved agricultural transgenics.

This is in stark contrast to the paltry \$200,000 spent in this country in 1993 on research into organic or chemical-free agriculture.

### PATENT IT - AND RULE THE WORLD

The international cotton industry is still reeling from the US government's decision in 1992 to award process patent rights for all transgenic cotton to American biotechnology company Agracetus, on behalf of chemical and nuclear multinational W R Grace. Europe also has granted the patent.

Patents are pending in the major cotton producing nations of India, Brazil and China.



The all-encompassing patents will give Agracetus-Grace a world monopoly on any new varieties of cotton regardless of the technique used in its development. All major cotton-producing countries will be forced to pay big royalties to use the new cotton seeds; growers will be lured to return to high-velocity and aerial spraying so they can maximise returns on their herbicide-resistant crops.

In March 1994 this seed company was also granted a process patent in Europe and has applied for one in the US, for all transgenic varieties of soyabean - the first attempt to gain total control over a staple food crop. If approved, this patenting of soyabeans will open the door to breeding rights for all major foods - rice, maize, beans and peanuts.

The patent rights on soyabeans and cotton extend to all genetically-engineered varieties, regardless of the technique employed. Both these patents are under attack from agricultural and conservation groups, liberals and intellectuals, for their far-reaching economic and ecological implications.

Earlier plant variety acts offered some protection to farmers and other seed users. The new Plant Breeders' Rights bills and strengthened patent rights offer no such protection.

**The once inalienable right of farmers to save seed is under threat, with the big corporations holding all the aces.**

#### **FARMERS' RIGHTS IN JEOPARDY**

"Elimination of farmers' rights to save and sell limited quantities of seed is a threat to global conservation and enhancement of plant biodiversity" maintains Hope Shand of Rural Advancement Foundation International, a Canadian/US lobby group.

"The revised UPOV Convention opens the door for a future ban on all farm-saved seed. Farmers' rights to save seed has been made optional; this is a time-honoured, inalienable right.

"Although the seed industry claims it would be impossible to enforce such a ban on farm-saved seed, it should be noted that US-based seed corporations have already brought suit against more than 20 soyabean farmers for alleged abuses."

Hope claims that there is a far greater understanding of the ramifications of GATT and plant breeders' rights in Third World countries than in the industrialised world.

"Consider, for example, the non-violent protests of over 1million Indian farmers in recent months, who object to the plant intellectual property provisions in the GATT accord. These farmers are angry because they don't want to pay royalties on seeds and other products that they believe were developed using their own genetic resources and knowledge."

According to Shand, there are other major implications. All grain grown from protected seeds come under Plant Breeders Rights. This gives the plant breeder the power

to restrict imports and exports of protected varieties and products without authority. Seed companies could restrict entry of farm-products coming from countries that are not part of the Plant Breeders' Rights bills. They could also prevent food aid shipments of protected seeds from going to a Third World country that doesn't recognise plant breeders' rights.

Genetic engineering expert, ecoscientist Richard Hindmarsh of Griffith University in Qld, goes much further in his condemnation of PBR and the patenting of life-forms:

"It is nothing short of bio-piracy by big corporations and governments - the consequences are frightening.

"Control of the world's food supplies - in fact, the future of the Earth itself - is to be handed over to the multinationals.

"It is not surprising most of the big players in the seeds monopolies are chemical companies: they wish to genetically manipulate crops to be tolerant to their herbicides.

"Seeds genetically altered to tolerate biopesticides and herbicides threaten also to degrade ecosystems; significantly, the primary research area of the bio-barons is to make crops - and there are 27 already being worked on - tolerant to broad-spectrum herbicides like Roundup and 2,4-D.

"Increased commitment to seed-savers' networks globally and locally is needed, as well as pressure on governments to contain the bio-revolution. Otherwise we are threatened with a genetically-engineered future that will draw its resources increasingly from the corporate-state proprietary-owned gene-banks", Richard Hindmarsh said.

**The agenda is clear: the chemical companies will win all ways - by owning the seed companies and by producing transgenic seeds resistant to their products.**

**Aerial spraying of broadspectrum herbicides will intensify the use of agricultural chemicals.**

Bob Phelps is co-ordinator of the Gen-Ethics Network, a group attached to the Australian Conservation Foundation, originally funded by rock band Midnight Oil, as a forum for discussion on genetic engineering. Funding for the group was taken over by the government in 1991.

"Plant-breeders' rights have overridden our basic right to survival - to feed, clothe and provide shelter for our families.

"The Plant Variety Rights Office and Dept of Primary Industries and Energy want to create an industrial property regime that rewards transnational seed and agribusiness companies so well, they will rush to register new varieties in Australia. The Bill primarily serves such interests.

"It has been reported that after the Bill becomes law, cotton may be declared a species from which seed may not be saved.

"It's a conspiracy between seed companies and governments to gain complete control over our lives", Bob Phelps said.



He said that despite consistent lobbying, the government had failed to offer adequate safeguards.

### SEED-SAVERS' NETWORKS GROW

Opponents of the PBR legislation and the seeds monopolies have rallied to the cause of protecting plant genetic resources and biodiversity. Seed-savers' networks have been formed in North America, Europe and Australasia to maintain and build a collection of original, chemical-free seeds for use by home gardeners, organic growers and small-acreage farmers. With the adoption of the PBR bills worldwide, their task has been made even more urgent. The Seed Savers' Network, run by Michel and Jude Fanton now has 2,000 members, with 1200 varieties in its seedbanks.

Small commercial seed companies are creating banks of organic, open-pollinated, non-hybrid seed. All are committed to protecting natural varieties of seed and informing the public of the need to fight for their rights against PBR legislation, genetic engineering and patenting of seeds, genes and viruses.

*This concludes this duo of articles which were excerpts of the article "Seeds, Survival or Servitude", by Ken Corbitt, published in NEXUS, 2/21, August 1994.*

*Many thanks to NEXUS for their Editor's policy that anyone can use their articles.*

### HERITAGE SEED CURATORS ASSOCIATION

second birthday report by  
Bill Hankin

In October 1994 the HSCA was 2 years old. It has come a long way since 6 of us got together for the first meeting in 1992. We now have over 100 members and published in August 1994 our first seedlisting of "The Curator". This has been a great success. Since the publication a lot of new members have joined and it generated good publicity in major newspapers and in radio interviews.

This year ('94) the HSCA became involved in lobbying to change the Australian government's new PVR (Plant Variety Registration) legislation. It has now been passed and proclaimed law. However, since then we have found out one aspect of the new act which will actually benefit heritage varieties. Under the new law a person can only claim ownership of a variety if a PVR application has been granted. Under the old act some companies got away with claiming ownership without actually applying or have a right granted by the PVR office. As all heritage varieties are public domain varieties, this keeps them from being claimed illegitimately.

Following on from this, the HSCA is taking on a new project: the PVR watch program. We are obtaining copies of the PVR journal and members will check it over to see what PVR rights have been applied for and which have been granted, to see if they are legitimate.

In August we obtained a sample copy of the journal and, on looking through it, found an application for a PVR right for a bush bean called 'Jade'. However, this variety has been available for sale (and not listed as PVR) in Australia since 1992. I know people who have saved seed of this variety, so it is probably a public domain variety.

We rang the PVR office and informed them of this and they requested that we write a letter commenting on this situation, so that its status will be further investigated. This has been done.

We believe this work is an important task and may be a vital part of the HSCA's role in the future.

Work on the Australian Garden Seed Inventory project has also gone ahead over the past 2 years. We have now completed drafts of the following: beans, tomatoes, lettuces, peas, apples, pears and quinces. We are currently working on a second draft inventory of potato varieties. Copies of these drafts are available to HSCA members. We have received a good deal of help on this matter from curators, seed savers, government seed banks, seed companies, philanthropic trusts, organic and biodynamic organisations. Recently we received a grant of \$9,200 from the William Buckland foundation for the inventory project.

Finally, the fundamental aim of the HSCA is to preserve heritage varieties. Over the last 6 months we have received seeds of many varieties of lettuces, garlic, beans, tomatoes, peanuts, chokos etc. Seed of all the varieties is available to HSCA curator members.

Individual membership of the HSCA costs \$20 a year. This is to cover the expenses involved in running the association and publishing the newsletter. For more info write to: Bill Hankin, Secretary HSCA  
W Tree via Buchan, VIC 3885  
Please enclose an .s.a.e. for return mail.



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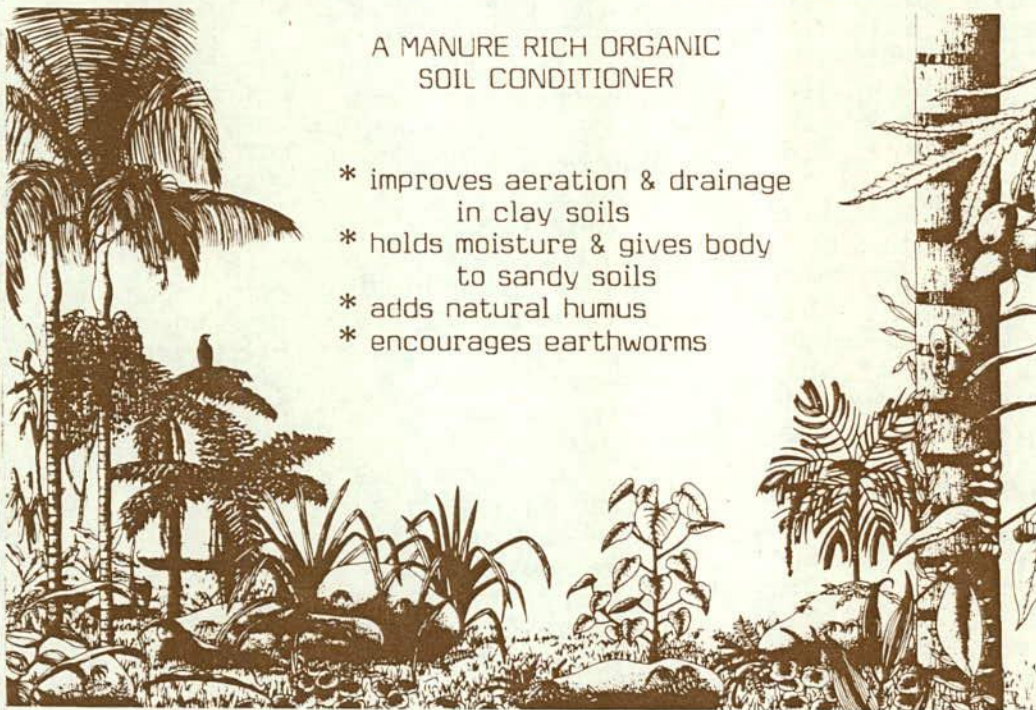


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# THIS AND THAT

## CANNABIS FOR AIDS

The federal government is expected to authorise endorsed doctors to prescribe a form of cannabis to HIV-AIDS patients for use in controlling nausea and stimulating appetite to improve patients' weight gain. The Therapeutic Goods Administration wrote to the Australian Society of HIV Medicine inviting it to become the endorsing body for doctors to prescribe dronabinol, a derivative of cannabis.

Dronabinol, a relatively new medication, is a tablet form of cannabis, from which the chemical agent responsible for the "high" has been removed. The TGA has already approved dronabinol for the treatment of nausea and vomiting for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

A Health Department spokesman said the plan depended on the co-operation of an appropriate medical society, such as ASHM and the agreement of the States and Territories.

The NSW Health Dept had not yet received an application for use of the drug, but would consider any application 'very seriously' a spokesman said.

*Weekend Australian 21-1-95*

*Northern Star, 25-1-95*

*(This drug is going to be imported from the USA.. Wouldn't it be good if they'd allow us herb growers to grow the plant and it could be manufactured here? -Elle)*

## THIGH CREAM OUT

The Trade Practices Commission (TCP) has launched a Federal Court action for alleged misleading and deceptive advertising against

the promoters of the Biometrics Contour Treatment (the so-called thigh slimming cream). TPC acting chairman John Broome said: "The product has now been banned from sale due to non-compliance with the Therapeutic Goods Act.

"Distributors who bought franchise areas claimed they were induced to buy distributorships as a result of misleading and deceptive promotions.

"At least 70 distributorships costing \$30,000 per area were believed to have been sold" Mr Broome said.

The Commission is also seeking to have the company place corrective advertisements in selected newspapers and magazines.

Last year several media reports quoted a small study which found thigh circumference had been reduced in some of the 37 women who used the cream nightly in a four-week trial.

However, the Sydney Morning Herald reported last month that University of NSW organic chemist and associate professor Michael Wootton, who conducted the tests, now acknowledges that he had been 'had'.

The cream was to be marketed at \$49.95 for a 30-day supply. Convicted conman Peter Foster (he of the Bai-Lin 'slimming tea') is being investigated in Britain for trying to sell distributorships for the thigh cream there.

His mother is the principal behind the Bio-Metrics company.

*Northern Star, 14-1-95*

## BODY SHOP TESTED

Inside the back cover

of the 1994 version 5 Body Shop catalogue, a bold face statement declares:

"The Body Shop is against animal testing for cosmetic ingredients and products. We do not commission others to animal test on our behalf and we support a complete ban of such testing... We also insist that our suppliers not deliver to us any ingredient that has been animal tested for the cosmetics industry within the past five years".

Freelance investigative journalist, John Entine, charges that The Body Shop maintains a no animal testing facade via the five year rule, which, he contends, means little because animal testing of new products is often done more than five years before they hit the market; by purchasing ingredients from wholesalers who don't develop new products and, therefore don't do any testing, and by circumvention.

The Entine expose, extensively discussed in the New York Times and the British media, is now embarrassing the British Union against Vivisection. Since 1987 the BUAV has endorsed The Body Shop in exchange for promotional considerations. In 1989, Entine says, the BUAV even changed its policy on animal testing to accommodate The Body Shop.

*Nimbin News, Dec '94*

*I have known about this for a while and find it a real shame. We knew Anita Roddick when she operated a small stall in Portobello market. I know she is a well-intentioned lady, but alas, since she's gone public she is no longer in charge of the company. Money won out in the end. I noticed that the company is on*



# TEN REASONS TO BUY ORGANIC

## 1. TO PROTECT FUTURE GENERATIONS

"We have not inherited the Earth from our fathers, we are borrowing it from our children" - Lester Brown  
The average child receives four times more exposure than an adult to at least eight widely used cancer-causing pesticides in food. Food choices made now, determine your child's future health.

## 2. TO PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Soil is the foundation of the food chain in organic gardening. In conventional farming, however, the soil is used more as a medium to hold plants in a vertical position, so they can be chemically fertilised. Soil structure is neglected and the top soil is washed or blown away.

## 3. TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Water makes two-thirds of our body mass and covers three-fourths of the planet. Pesticides and other chemicals widely contaminate ground water and rivers and pollute our primary source of drinking water.

## 4. TO SAVE ENERGY

Modern farming uses more petroleum than any other industry. More energy is now used to produce synthetic fertilisers than to till, cultivate and harvest crops. Organic farming is still based on labour intensive practices such as hand weeding, green manure and cover crops instead of chemicals.

## 5. TO KEEP CHEMICALS OFF YOUR PLATE

Many pesticides and herbicides were registered long before extensive research linking them to cancer and other diseases could be established. They are poisons designed to kill living organisms and can also harm humans. In addition to cancer, pesticides are implicated in birth defects, nerve damage and genetic manipulations.



Farmers have a much larger risk than non-farmers of contracting cancer. Farm worker health is also a serious problem in developing nations, where pesticide use can be poorly regulated.  
An estimated 1 Million people are poisoned annually by pesticides.

### **7. TO HELP SMALL FARMERS**

Most organic farms are small, independently owned family farms of less than 100 acres. Many family farms have been lost this past decade. Organic farming could be one of the few survival tactics left for family farms.

### **8. TO SUPPORT A TRUE ECONOMY**

Although organic foods might seem more expensive than conventional foods, conventional food prices don't reflect hidden costs such as pesticide regulation and testing, hazardous waste disposal and cleanup and environmental damage. If the hidden environmental and social costs of chemically-produced conventional produce were added to that produce, it would be more than double the price of organic food.

### **9. TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY**

The conventional farmer uses mono-culture, the planting of large plots of land with the same crop year after year. This approach leaves the soil lacking in natural minerals and nutrients, which have to be replaced by chemical fertilisers in increasing amounts. Single crops are also more susceptible to pests, making farmers more reliant on pesticides. Insects have become genetically resistant to certain pesticides and despite increased uses of chemicals, crop losses are growing.

Organic farmers encourage natural predators on their farms and are content with a smaller harvest. They also practice crop rotation to add health and energy to the soil.

### **10. FOR A BETTER TASTE**

Organic farming starts with the nourishment of the soil, which leads to the nourishment of the plant and, ultimately, our palate. Ask the many chefs who prefer to use organic foods.

Excerpted from an article by Sylvia Tawse in DELICIOUS!, April 1994

This poster is printed and distributed by the ORGANIC HERB GROWERS OF AUSTRALIA Inc.  
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the Australian list of Not Tested on Animals products, along with some others that I know shouldn't be there. What a disappointment, hey? -Elle

### CARPET A NO-NO

Contrary to what some organic magazines recommend, carpet or carpet underfelt is not allowed to be used in organic growing.

Carpet and carpet underfelt is full of such nasties as DDT, Dieldrin, Endophos etc and if you use it, or have used it in the past, you are in great danger of loosing your certification.

Some of our herb growers had taken this easy way out, with the result that their previously clean soils became heavily contaminated and they were back to square one, or much worse off, as far as certification goes.

### SCARY STUFF

The February-March edition of NEXUS contains a real scary article entitled: *The Assault on Freedom of Choice in Health Care*.

It is a chronicle of the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) campaign of terror to protect their friends, the multinational drug companies, against any form of natural therapy.

Their purpose seems to be to destroy the businesses and lives of their targets (mostly small vitamin and herb businesses), and to spread fear throughout the land, so that others who may be tempted to rebel against the agency will remain meek and submissive (a quote from The Life Extension Foundation, a Florida business who were selling vitamins and who were raided and lost US\$500,000 worth of vitamins, computer, files, newsletters, personal belongings, destroyed phones etc to the FDA.)

A few well-known businesses are also involved.

Nature's Way were raided on June 30, 1992, when the FDA seized a quantity of evening primrose oil, both in capsules and in bulk, and were forced to remove the vitamin E from their product because the FDA claimed that "vitamin E has not been approved as a food additive for evening primrose oil".

International Nutrition Inc, another pretty well-known company, were raided and US\$1M worth of vitamin raw materials and products, formulated by Dr Hans Nieper of Germany, along with computers and business records, were seized.

In most cases FDA agents were accompanied by armed Customs officers and in one case where a man was selling Gerovital, his eight-month pregnant wife and 83-year old grandfather were held at gunpoint for 10 hours!

If you thought this is typical Yank stuff and that it could never happen here, think again:

The Manning Pharmacy in Manning, Perth, was raided on November 9, 1993, because the owner, Maurice Czarniak, was making and selling externally applied creams for arthritis, baldness, cellulite, nappy rash etc. The creams were so successful that they attracted very favourable TV coverage on TVW Channel 7.

All the cream products were based on chicken eggs as the active ingredient. Czarniak had been in constant written and oral dialogue with the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA), but the creams did not fit in with their definition of drugs but were in fact foods.

Shortly after the TV programs, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) conducted a raid on Maurice's

home, his parents' home and his pharmacy. All goods, finished products, experimental products, records, computer disks, tapes, postal orders, hundreds of letters from the public, cheques and cash etc, were confiscated. There were 16 AFP agents, plus TGA and state health officials, involved.

During the raid their little son of 15 months was knocked over and, according to Maurice, they were literally treated like criminals for putting an egg into a cream!

A private investigator on the case found that the telephone at the pharmacy had been bugged for several weeks. Maurice was advised by his lawyers that the Dept of Public Prosecutions would charge his wife with other offences if he did not plead guilty. He didn't and his wife Petra was charged with offences carrying maximum possible fines of \$1.4M.

The trial was on December 12, 1993 where they were fined \$96,000 for putting egg into creams, and told that these were serious offences. Appeal proceedings are under way and there should be a result by April.

### GLOBAL PEST CONTROL BATTLE

While farms in the developed world are being weaned off dangerous chemical pesticides, there is a battle raging in the Third World between expanding chemical industries keen to sell pesticides, and advocates of traditional ways to control insects, says Jeffery Waage, head of the International Institute of Biological Control (IIBC).

At stake is a US\$20billion global market for pesticides.

Mr Waage, speaking during a visit to Wageningen University in the Netherlands, said chemical pesticide sales were falling in industrialised



countries as the environmental costs became clearer and governments clamped down on their use.

Chemical firms are falling over themselves to develop the use of bacteria, viruses, fungi and other biopesticides which can be safely applied in agriculture.

"Many of the biopesticides companies are now making, are very much in the mould of the chemicals they have been producing for years and years. They are short-lived in the fields so they disappear and you have to buy them again next year", Mr Waage said.

He said firms were not making enough of the living qualities of the new products, which potentially could survive on the land and combat harmful insects in the long term. He said companies were also turning their backs on other control methods because they did not make commercial sense in an industry which makes its profits by repeat sales.

"During the last plague of the desert locust in Africa in the '80's, US\$250million worth of chemicals were used to try to control it without much success, but with huge environmental damage.

"We could develop something giving continuing control, but a chemical company might not find that worth marketing.

"I'm determined that by the time we have the next plague, people are going to be spraying a highly specific fungal disease on locusts, rather than a broad spectrum toxic chemical."

The IIBC is working on a fungus to kill locusts and could develop it for a half of one percent of the money spent on chemical locust control, Mr Waage said.

He said that farmers would ultimately become much more aware of biological control and use biopesticides as an aid to protecting the natural enemies.

The IIBC has its headquarters in Britain and is part of the inter-governmental organisation CAB International. It is non-profit making and raises about 95% of its funding from contracts with governments and aid agencies.

*Reuters, via Northern Star, 11-2-95*

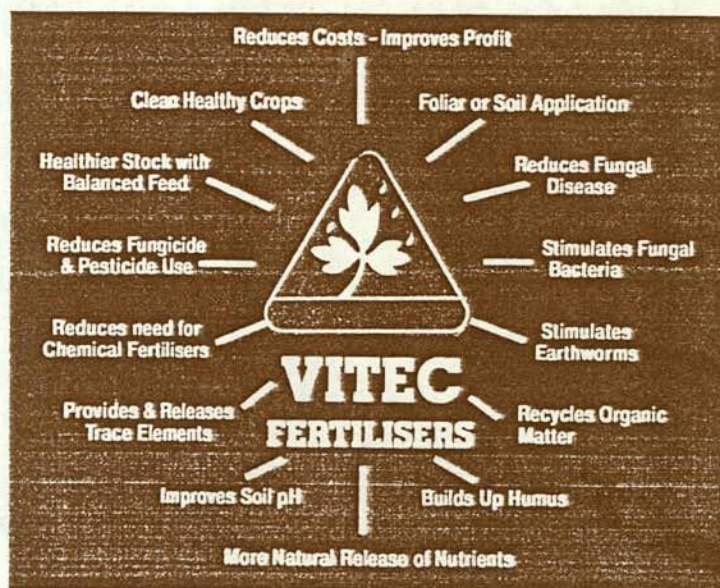
### SOYA IMPLANTS

Breast implants filled with soya bean oil will be tested on 50 women in the US and on 100 women in Europe. Trilucent consists of a silicone shell filled with a derivative of soya bean oil. The material won't interfere with results from mammographies; tumours are five times more likely to be missed with saline or silicone implants. The new implants should also feel more natural than saline ones. Restricted to women who want existing implants replaced, 1000 inquiries were logged for the 10 implants to be trialled at one institution.

*New Scientist No. 1938, via Nimbin News Feb/March '95*

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## Observations

by Magda Verbeek

Christmas came and went, as did New Year, and I've prepared and helped prepare so many meals and snacks and washed up a squillion dished several times a day... So when everybody left (lovely though it was to share my space with family and friends), I didn't do the washing up as often, didn't make the bed as soon as I got up and didn't sweep the floor twice a day. Aahh... left to my own habits again at last. The result is that, when it's time to do the washing up it's usually a big one. Well, my observation on this occasion concerns chilli.

I had made sambal oelek (indonesian chilli paste) and had put the chillis through the grinder, along with garlic and onions (so quick and easy). As you can imagine, when the grinder was pulled to bits to clean, quite a lot of matter came off. On that occasion I washed up most of the dishes before I came to the grinder, but had washed the bowl in which the chillis had been crushed. My observation is ... that chilli in water is strong enough to burn the skin through rubber gloves!! Now, if you knew that, why didn't you tell me!! Furthermore, the same bowl was used the next day to mix a batch of muffins and they came out with a slight chilli after taste. Not to mention when I put the gloves on again, I could still feel the chilli burn!! Amazing - but really nice, Sambal!

Back in the garden, Echinacea had taken precedent in the ever revolving list of priorities and thank goodness our first harvest is over.

We've found out that Echinacea finishes really fast once it has flowered fully. A paddock full of flowers at the beginning of December, turns into a paddock full of finished and black flower heads, wilted leaves and is not a pretty sight.

As far as insect pests in the Echinacea are concerned, I didn't observe any leaf eater. Upon harvest, there were signs that something had munched the roots a little. It looked like weevil damage and I'll find out more about them.

There was root rot disease of some sort, which is of great concern because of the root being an intrinsic part of the harvest and health of the plant.

Apart from that, the crop itself was alive with field mice, large wasps - the occasional horse and cow - and heaps of weeds! So, who's perfect!

The next 10,000 seedlings already need major weeding, but that's insanity for you!

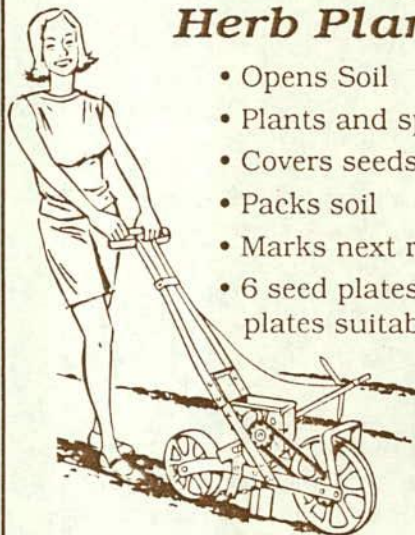
Did you collect Dung beetles? I found seven varieties of beetles.

Has anyone managed to find an effective Flea beetle control yet?

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### TEA TREE OIL CONTAMINATED

Kevin Corcoran, in the Northern Star of February 18 reported that the BFA, in pesticide residue tests on tea tree oil, found traces of Chlorpyrifos to the amount of 0.47 ppm. The Peanut Marketing Board analytical laboratory, the same lab that's used by OHGA, confirmed that the chemical has appeared in a number of samples from throughout Australian growing regions. Chlorpyrifos is the most widely used pesticide in Australian agriculture and in households. Glen Stotter, the chairman of Australian Tea Tree Export and Marketing Ltd, said US growers advised members and buyers about the possibility that oil could contain the residue. They had advised buyers not to accept the oil unless it had laboratory results to show it was pesticide free. Mr Stotter said the Australian Tea Tree Association (ATTIA) had advised members there may have been a problem with the pesticide and to stop using it. He said that if there was a problem it was small and that it no longer exists.

The chairman of ATTIA, Bill McGilvray, said it was up to growers to decide if they wanted to use a product. Meanwhile, a BFA spokesman said the residue could have been drift or chemical use from the past and that the test results did not indicate that the product had been used on the tea trees.



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**MARCH-APRIL 1993**

Indian Plants to fight AIDS; the Do's and Don'ts of Composting; Starting herbs from seeds.

**MAY-JUNE 1993**

Valerian as a cash crop; Herbal teas for winter; chervil.

**JULY-AUGUST 1993**

Soil deficiencies and how to fix them, part 1; H.E.M.P.; Scullcap, a promising medicinal; Producing thyme as a ground cover.

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1993**

Soil deficiencies and how to fix them, part 2; Dandelions as a cash crop; Grower Hints, how to improve your chives harvest.

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994**

Aromatherapy; Mulching, which materials are best; Menopausal Years; Agrimony, an easy to grow medicinal.

**MAY-JUNE 1994**

Herbal first aid, easy to find remedies; Homoeopathic first aid, part 1; Organic fertilizers; Snail farming; How to prepare a herb sample; Labelling of products.

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Garlic, the magic cure-all; Homoeopathic first aid continued; Paper works; OHGA survey.

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**BLOOD AND BONE  
what's in it?**

For organic gardeners, blood and bone is one of the most popular organic fertilisers, but disturbing reports lately have raised questions as to the composition of so-called commercial "blood and bone" products on the market. Recently a TV show ran a segment in which they tested six leading brands of blood and bone, with staggering results.

The fact sheet put out on the TV segment says that six of the most widely available brands of blood and bone in Australia were tested. Four of the products

tested were unsatisfactory and three of these contained little or no blood and bone at all.

The following products were tested:

- \* Yates Blood and Bone
- \* Pivot Blood and Bone
- \* Paton's Blood and Bone
- \* Defender Blood and Bone
- \* Sherrington's Blood and Bone  
(also sold as
- \* Cole's Country Garden Blood and Bone)
- \* Nitrosol Complete Organic Fertiliser  
(called "Traditional Blood 'n Bone")

These products were tested by the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories, the Dept of Ag NSW and a forensic biologist, Derrick Klarkowski, who was able to test for the presence of blood in the samples. This was clearly an expensive and comprehensive testing program.

The results were as follows:

- 1) Two of the products, Pivot and Yates, were found to be superior to the rest. These were substantially, if not wholly, blood and bone products.
- 2) The Paton's fertiliser was substantially blood and bone but had some inclusions.
- 3) The Nitrosol product contained no blood and bone at all and also contained inorganic or chemical fertiliser in the form of potassium chloride and super phosphate. Although clearly labeled Blood 'n Bone, this product was not blood and bone in any way.
- 4) The Defender product contained substantial quantities of blood and bone but shows evidence of other organic inclusions. These could be poultry manure, wool scourings, sewage sludge, feather meal or other animal by-products. Phosphate levels were fortified, possibly with rock phosphate or super-phosphate.
- 5) The Sherringham product (or Cole's Country Garden Blood and Bone) was also clearly labeled as blood and bone, but in fact contained only a minor proportion of blood and bone. This product was thought to also contain super phosphate in considerable amounts and some kind of wool scourings, dags or possibly sewage sludge, although this was not certain.

It looks like the only products in the range that were tested, that really contain Blood and Bone, are Yates and Pivot. Yates does contain one impurity, but that seems to be rock phosphate, which is an allowable organic input.

*From COGS, Spring 1994, Organic Growing in the Canberra Region.*





## HERB FARMS AUSTRALIA

### MARKET REPORT

After the Christmas and New Years holiday break, the markets have taken on a buoyant mood. Particularly with king basil ! His royal highness once again reigns supreme. Now that North Queensland crops have come to an end, the rest of the country can get a look in. Sales are brisk. This year sees an increase in demand for purple basil. No doubt because of last years dismal sales, not too many growers bothered to put in this difficult annual. And true to "Murphys law", when nobody is growing it, then everyone will want it.

Other real good performers have been rosemary and thyme. Most of the Mediterranean crops are now coming into good demand including sage, oregano, and marjoram. Rocket and sorrel appear to be scarce but there's a good demand. It must have been those extreme hot temperatures that caused them to look pretty bad.

North Coast growers have just been hit with a couple of days of torrential rainstorms. Be

on the lookout for moulds, fungus, black spots, crown rots, and sudden death from wet roots. Good preventative care should be adopted, making sure that the drainage is ok. Silica in the form of horsetail sprays will help. Seaweed sprays around the roots will also be a good preventative measure.

The medicinal market place is still wide open for the risk takers. Success will be assured to those growers who have a grade A organic certification. The current echinacea harvest on the north coast has been a success. We anticipate many future years of good harvests. The next major medicinal crop will be scullcap (*scutellaria laterifolia*). Unfortunately seed is very scarce, with back orders still outstanding. Reports are that there is a world wide shortage of this herb.

An interesting item was brought to my attention by the people compiling the data of the organic industry survey. It seems that most certified growers aren't aware that they are receiving premium prices for their organic produce. I would suggest that they visit the marketplace or obtain a copy of the daily market reporting services and compare the money they're getting for their crops to the conventional prices for herb bunches. Conventional growers have to give twice or three times our bunch size too to obtain these lower prices!

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## Woodchips? Whoopee!

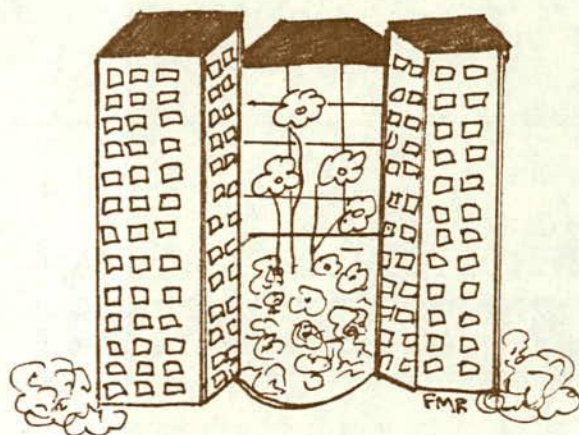
ON Saturday mornings I sometimes wander out of this skyscraper down to West End to yarn with a few locals. Recently, as I rounded the last corner, a small, dedicated group was collecting a petition. Now, I avoid signing anything unless I can read the fine print. So, I had actually walked a yard past the outstretched clipboard when the magic word finally sunk in - "woodchips".

It stopped me in my tracks and brought on one of those flashes of teeth-grinding anger. Despite 30 years of protesting, petitioning and pleading, our national leaders still don't understand that I don't want the Australian bush buggered up any more than it already is. It made me wonder what the woodchip issue really is about. Why are our elected representatives letting vandals destroy the scrub, the bush, the forest, the trees, the timber? Then it suddenly dawned on me.

To begin with, woodchips is merely a ruse to get green warriors to show their hand. They can then be publicly photographed and refused entry to one-day cricket matches for the next five years. Being starved of cricket fixes, these warriors become politically infertile which crumbles the foundations of the minor parties. Woodchips is also shaking some older, supposed conservatives out of the "green" cupboard. This growing group of aged has long been suspected of harbouring seditious memories of what the land looked like long before the chainsaw. And that's not on. Once tagged, this group is denied the vote.

Woodchips is also a major marketing success: the Free And Restricted Timber Sellers recently returned jubilant from Japan waving a huge cheque and slopping champagne over anyone within reach. They had convinced Japanese shop-owners to wrap sale goods in 12 layers of paper instead of the usual eight. Japanese politicians had also agreed to exchange 16 wrapped gifts a week (previously nine) and abandon all paper recycling policies. To grab some limelight, the Log Owners and Operators National Youth is lobbying the Brits to wrap their chips separately from their fish, thus doubling paper use. Also, the Timber and Wood Industry Tourism Service recently returned gob-smacked from Queens-town, Tasmania, with a new understanding of the visitor potential of ugly moonscapes. TWITS is also off to the Simpson Desert to research management practices which can be applied to post-chipped forest areas.

The recent Parliament House blockade, which



## PADDOCK ON TOP

By KENRICK RILEY

seemed like hundreds of cowboys with their wagons in a circle (a Reagan policy practice), was actually a media stunt arranged by ABC's *Frontline* program. The show's producer admitted the story was not about timber town survival, but about surveying the physical fitness of politicians. With a hunch that sitting in limousines was harmful, *Frontline* hired five re-trenched truckies to blockade the only entry to the Parliamentary carpark. That's why there were lots of close-ups of chrome bull-bars and not much else. "An aerial shot would have revealed the 'blockade' for what it really was," the producer confided. (The footage of polities struggling under leaden briefcases is being analysed by physios for a future *Frontline* program.)

With a jolt, I realised the poor petitioner was trying to tell me about the proposed street march to protest the forest destruction. I smiled sheepishly. While she is posing for street shots, I will be planting a dense tree-line on the farm boundary so the neighbours can't copy my farm desert proposal. I will be informing Japanese honeymooners that koalas don't live in trees - they are natives of zoos. I will be convincing Governments to ignore the fibre potential of hemp. After all, why farm fibre when we can flog it out of a forest for free? As for the lumber yards, let them sell steel. I will also clear-fell the beautiful forest drive from Canberra to Batemans Bay so every bureaucrat with a boat gets a bird's eye view of the benefits of woodchips. And I will remotivate the disheartened economic rationalists who have begun to believe that sustainable growth might actually be an ancient forest, not a mobile phone bill. Because, we will need them to convince the Japanese to woodchip their cherry trees once the eucalypt supply runs out.

HERB GROWER



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**HAVE YOU HAD YOUR PARSLEY TODAY?**

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(quantity) ..... of sticker A  
 ..... of sticker B  
 ..... of sticker C  
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 (Cheques payable to OHGA)

Name .....

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.....Post code.....

*Continued from the front page*

If you have any promotional skills and want to be part of the effort, please let us know. We can definitely use help.

In the centre of this issue you will find a poster, originally printed in article form in *Delicious!* magazine of April 1994. Please use this poster to its fullest advantage, which means that you may have to run a few photocopies off and offer it to your healthfood shop, environment centre, library, greengrocer (if they'll accept it) or any other outlet where it would have an impact. Most of the OHGA members who have participated in the organic survey mentioned that they saw education of the public in organic matters as one of their priorities. This poster would certainly be a good start.

On this page you will see an order form for the stickers. You will have received one free sticker with this issue, but we hope that you'll buy a few more. The certified members would certainly want some of the "I've been certified" stickers. We have a good number of each, so we won't run out for a while.

*To cultivate a garden and grow flowers from the sod  
is to walk hand in hand with Nature  
and be very close to God.*

Helen Steiner Rice

It is claimed that 90% of the total weight and mass of plants is manufactured from what is taken in through the leaves.

The chirping of birds in the morning and evening, with the chirp of crickets, causes the stomata of leaves to open and take in the rich laden nutrients.

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The well known results from SM6 spray that mixes with all other sprays, are earlier flowering and over a longer period, brighter colours and stronger scent; herbs have slightly larger leaves with more pungent aroma.

For specific details, please contact Arthur Riley,  
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*advertisement*



# Natural Herbal Tonic!



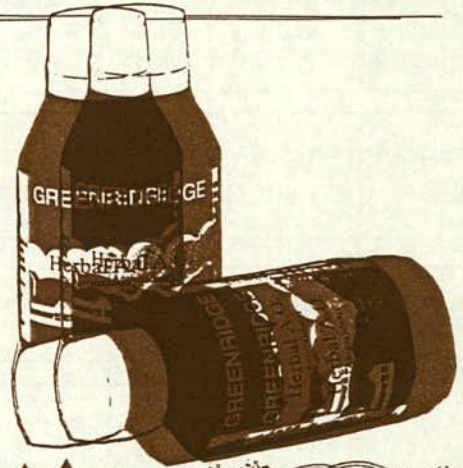
## Herbal A.O.

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Lost the Spring in your Step?  
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## THE DEHYDRATOR DRYER

by  
**John Tucker**

The normal concept of a dryer is a furnace or heater, heating air by simple convection or fan forced, which then passes over the material to be dried. This has several drawbacks. The heat transferred from the furnace to the drying air is hard to control accurately unless a thermostatically controlled oil or electric furnace is used. The main danger is over-heating the air and roasting the material. The cost of installing a thermostatically controlled furnace is high, as are the running costs.

The following is a description of a dehydrator or dehumidifier. The running costs are comparable with a household refrigerator, in my case a maximum of 1100 watts. Because the drying is done by very dry air, and not by a furnace, the crop cannot be overdone and also retains a very good colour. It runs from an ordinary 3-pin power point. The dryer will dry literally any vegetation, including fruit, nuts, flowers and rootcrops.

The principle this type of dehydrator employs can be seen outside any place which uses one of those now rather old-fashioned air conditioners. You will have noticed a pool of water draining from the air conditioner. This water is condensation, caused by air at the ambient temperature passing over the evaporator where it is cooled. As the air cools its dew point lowers; as a result of this it can hold less moisture and becomes cold and dry air; the excess moisture condenses and forms that pool of water.

In the dehydrator the cold dry air is then passed over the condenser component which, you will recall from the household fridge, is quite hot. This converts the cold dry air into hot dry air, which then passes over the produce and extracts moisture, thereby becoming wet air. This wet air is passed over the evaporator, condensing out the moisture and starting the cycle again.

The refrigerant compressor is identical to a household unit, but the condenser and evaporator are much larger. The above description is very basic but explains the principles. An improvement uses a recuperator which consists of two connected heat exchangers mounted before and after the evaporator and filled with water. These improve the efficiency of the evaporator.

The cost to purchase a complete unit with a drying floor of 2x2 metres is around \$20,000 to \$25,000 but the running costs are only 10-12 cents an hour off the domestic 3-pin mains, removing 1-2 kgs of water per hour.

*For those interested in buying one of these dryers, see classifieds in the back of the magazine.*

## HERB PRODUCTION COURSE

**Crystal Waters, Qld**  
**March 25, 26, 27 and May 5, 6, 7**

A 3-day intensive course, outlining organic techniques for small integrated herb acreage. Soil, water, fertility, garden bed preparation, design and maintenance, pest control, propagation and harvest; value-added produce and local industry will be taught.

A short field trip and some "hands-on" will be included.

All food and camping accommodation provided; bunkhouse accommodation available for additional fee.

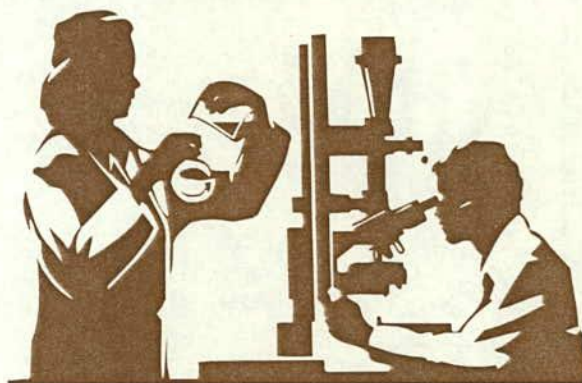
**Cost: \$125 p.p.**

*For more information and registration  
phone Barb Knudsen on  
074 - 944 707*

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- Organic methods that do not use chicken manure are preferred.
- Prices vary according to quality.

For further information  
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Mr Peter Purbrick,  
Raw Materials Manager,  
MediHerb Pty Ltd,  
P.O. Box 713, Warwick, Qld, 4370.  
Tel (076) 61 4900.



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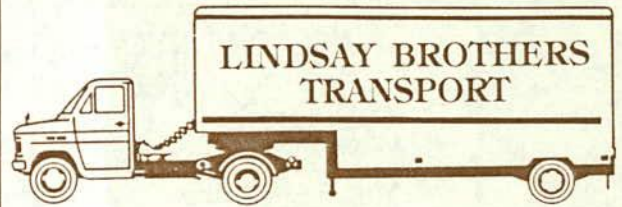
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We also stock environmentally safe insect sprays for the house,  
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We need growers of organic produce. We pay best market  
price for quality produce

**WHOLESALEERS OF QUALITY PRODUCE**  
Enquiries : Phone Tony at Lismore [066] 222 199



# NEXT HERB GROWERS MEETING

is scheduled for April 9, 1994  
from 10am - 1pm

at Liz & Bob McIntyre's, 386 Gwynne Rd, GEORGICA  
Ph. 066 - 888124

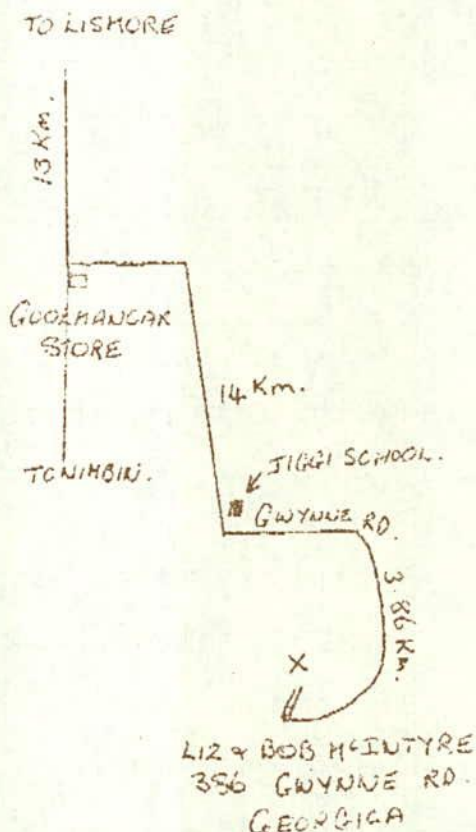
Everyone is welcome. If you have any organic herbs, produce or herbal products to sell, bring a table and set yourself up.

Please bring a cup for everyone in group as a drink will be provided, but not the cup to put it in.

Liz and Bob's garden is only about one year old, and there are more than just herbs planted.

They are Grade A certified growers.

If you have any questions concerning organic herb growing, this is the time and place to ask them.



## OTHER HERBAL MEETINGS

**HERBS AND ESSENTIAL OILS  
CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP**  
on 19-21 April at the C B Alexander  
Agricultural College "Tocal",  
Paterson NSW

An industry development conference, featuring  
\*Markets and Industry Development \*Production Techniques,  
\*Post Harvest and Quality Control, \*Trade displays and\*  
Research and Industry Organisations.

The conference is hosted by NSW Agriculture and  
supported by RIRDC.

Howard Rubin will represent OHGA and he will give a talk  
entitled "Herb Growing Organically" on the Thursday  
morning. Other speakers are Phil Daffy from  
Blackmores; Vong Nguyen, NSW Agriculture; Sandy  
McDowell, Medical Herbalist; Judyth McLeod from Uni of  
Western Sydney; Ian Hemphill from Masterfoods Aus.;  
Brian Read of NSW Ag., AQIS and TGA, and many more.

For info please ring (063) 334377

**1995 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, on  
PHYTOTHERAPEUTICS**  
on 10-12 March at The Collaroy Centre,  
Collaroy Beach, Sydney

Contact Anne Cowper, who is the conference co-  
ordinator, on (049) 734107 or by fax on (049) 734857  
for information. Howard Rubin will represent the  
herb growing side of things and will speak on our  
behalf. There are also speakers from the UK, USA,  
Hong Kong, Germany, New Zealand and, of course,  
plenty from Australia.

The conference is sponsored by Blackmores Ltd,  
MediHerb, Nature's Sunshine Products, Life Span &  
Eagle Pharmaceuticals and Lichtwer Pharma.  
Some of the topics for discussion include: Artichokes,  
Unusual women's herbs, Herbal remedies for babies  
and children, Menopause and Phytotherapy in the  
kitchen.



# O.H.G.A. & HERB GROWER

**YES! I would like to become a member of OHGA and receive the HERB GROWER.**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Joining fee	\$ 10
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Overseas membership	\$ 55
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application for certification	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification fee	<u>\$125</u>
total		\$ _____

## FOR SALE:

**DEHYDRATOR DRYER, 1K/Watt**, runs from 3pin power point, can be used as fixed installation or portable on a car trailer. Will dry any vegetation, fruit, nuts, flowers, rootcrops etc. Replacement cost \$22,000. Looking for offers around \$10-12,000, all offers considered.

Contact John 071-630769 or PO Box 58, Blackbutt Qld 4306.

**ORGANIC NON-HYBRID SEEDS**, all culinaries and some medicinals (echinacea purp, agrimony, grindelia, valerian, feverfew, burdock).

Phone or fax Elle on 066-291057 or send SAE to P O Box 6099, South Lismore 2480.

## HERB GROWER ADVERTISING RATES from January 1995

Full Page      1/2 Page      1/4 Page

*casual*

\$75                      \$55                      \$35

*regular (3 or more consecutive issues)*

\$60                      \$45                      \$25

## CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads of up to 4 lines are free to members of OHGA.

Others pay \$2.50 per line payable when placing the ad.

(There are a maximum of 40 letters, incl. spaces, on one line.)

**COPY FOR ALL ADS MUST BE IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.**

## WANTED:

Mulch materials and manures from organically certified properties. Call any committee member. (see backpage for phone nrs.)

## FOR SALE:

Organic worm castings, OHGA certified.

1 kg - \$3, 5 kg - \$12.

Contact Barbara Downes on 075-909762. (*Great stuff, I use it. -Elle*)

**GROWERS WANTED** to grow herbs for the Koala Tea Co. Must be certified organic and preferably on large acreage. If you can grow good mint, lemongrass, chamomile, rosehips or rosellas, chicory root, lemonbalm or passion flower, please contact Howard on 066 - 291057.

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# LONG LOST INFORMATION

## An introduction to "Papers On Health" Volume 1.

Dear friend,

MY name is Chris Lewin and I would like to introduce you to one of the most exciting books on **NATURAL REMEDIES** that I have ever come across. They are the works of Professor John Kirk, who lived in the last century. "

He was a man who was loved by the people of his day, contemporaries had nothing but good to say of him. The majority of his life was spent seeking to help and ease the burden of the more unfortunate. A large number of people believed everything that he spoke or wrote on health and it was very remarkable that a majority of his deductions were correct.

It was with this practical hands on experience that he wrote for Journals and News Papers of his day. It was through one of his regular columns entitled "PAPERS ON HEALTH" which ran for eleven years, that this wealth of information accumulated. With the over welming response to his articles it was decided to put the information into book form as soon as there was enough material for a book, and that is how this wonderful material came to be.

In all there are eleven volumes of his works entitled "Papers on Health". They were originally in a small book format of about 220 to 260 pages. Lewin Press has re typeset the original works into a larger page size format, reducing the number of pages of each volume, this has enabled us to keep the cost down of production so that you do not have to pay a fortune for it. Now

you can reap the benefits of this man's life work and experience good health. These Volumes are full of wonderful Natural remedies, that do not cost a fortune, in fact they will save you a fortune. Professor Kirk was very thorough in diagnosing and explaining the diseases or problems that he wrote about in each article. He was also just as thorough in explaining how to treat the disease or problem with the natural alternatives. His information is of a sound and practical nature in regard to healing in a natural way.

**It was through a living testimony that I came across this long lost material.** A number of years ago I became acquainted with a lady of **84 years of age**. Though she looked much younger than her age, she was bright, active and lived on her own. In fact, she had never been to a doctor in all her life. I asked her what was her secret to good health? She then began to tell me about Professor Kirk, and how her father had used the eleven volumes of Professor Kirk to treat any sickness that they had. In fact her father used to treat many people with great success using the information in these books. She then proceeded to show me these books, they were old and delicate. As I started to

review the contents contained therein, I knew straight away as a natural practitioner and publisher, the value of the information they contained. This information I had not found in any other books before. What a great benefit it would be to many people, if they could have this information in their hands. **It was like finding lost treasure!** Seeing my excitement and enthusiasm she said she would lend me the books to accomplish a reprint,..... **and I am now happy to be able to**

*A Reprint Of A Long-lost Classic*

**PAPERS ON HEALTH**  
BY PROFESSOR JOHN KIRK  
1813 TO 1886



**VOLUME ONE**

*Healing the Maladies of Mankind*

*Published by Lewin Press ©*

ISBN: 1 875923 00 4 (Set) 1 875923 01 2 (v.1)



**present the first volume to you.** The remaining volumes will soon be available. The lady I mentioned before is now 88 years of age and is going strong and has still not been to a doctor. She too was excited to see this reprint. When I took her a copy of Volume One she said she could not wait to tell her 91 year old brother who is still going strong too. For Professor Kirks remedies had saved his arm from being amputated many years ago. And they both had attributed their good health to the remedies provided by Professor Kirk.

For your benefit, so that you will not miss out on this long lost material I now present to you the contents of Volume One:

*Lowering the Flame (Fever),  
St. Vitus Dance,  
Neuralgia,  
Swelling of the Knee,  
Outstrikes (Eruptions on the skin),  
From Knee to Ankle,  
The Throat,  
Saving a Limb,  
Scarlet Fever,  
Swollen Glands,  
Bronchitis,  
A Bran Poultice,  
Paralysis,  
The Stomach a Trouble,  
Pleurisy,  
Palpitation,  
Swelling after Fever,  
Bathing the Feet,  
Wasting Bone,  
Repairing Bone,  
Sleeplessness,  
Rheumatism,  
Rheumatic Fever,  
Cancer, in One Aspect,  
Nervous Attacks,  
Severer Nervous Attacks,  
The Soapy Blanket,*

*Bleeding from the Lungs,  
Shivering,  
Swollen Veins,  
St. Anthony's Fire,  
Whooping Cough,  
Subject to Croup,  
The More Serious Croup,  
Inflamed Eyes,  
The Eyes Again,  
Danger to Sight,  
Accidents to the Eyes,  
Failing Sight,*

I am sure that one of these topics if not more, will be of great value to you.

The price for this valuable information in Volume one of Papers on Health is **only \$15** and this includes postage within Australia.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and receiving your order, then to here from you again with your testimonies of success in using these treatments. Professor Kirk was forever receiving such testimonies and I am sure this brought him great joy and happiness through life.

The following order form or phone numbers are for your convenience in ordering. So till I here from you, thank you for taking the time to read this brochure and thank you for your order.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Lewin*

Chris Lewin

On behalf of Lewin Press.

**PS. Remember the cost is only \$15 and this includes postage.**

## EASY ORDER FORM



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Stanthorpe Qld Australia 4380



For credit card orders  
or enquires call  
**(076) 835 267**



Fax the completed  
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**(076) 835 392**

**PLEASE FAX  
FORM ONLY  
NOT WHOLE PAGE**



☐ **YES PLEASE**, I would like to order **Papers on Health Volume One** for: **\$15** which includes postage.

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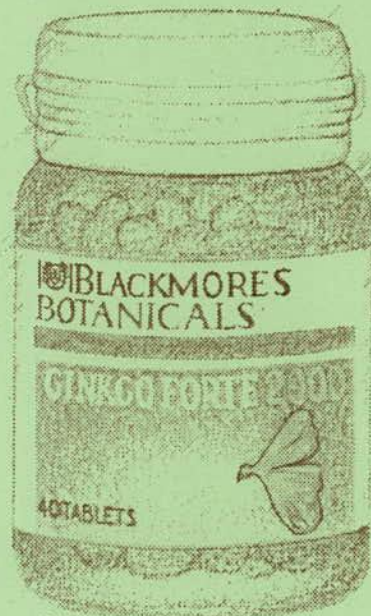
# Ginkgo Forte 2000

Formulated to replicate the effective dose used  
in published clinical research.

## Benefits of Ginkgo

Clinical research into the therapeutic use of  
Ginkgo extracts has resulted in two key areas of  
application:

- As an aid to the maintenance of peripheral circulation. Reduced blood flow to the periphery results in reduced oxygen and nutrient supply to the extremities.
- As a powerful antioxidant and free radical scavenger. Free radicals may be generated by essentially normal metabolism, exposure to cigarette smoke, alcohol intake, certain preservatives in food, by ozone, chlorine, rancid foods and excess dietary fats.



## Guaranteed Potency

Made from a standardised extract, each tablet of  
Blackmores Ginkgo Forte 2000 has a guaranteed  
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active ingredients of Ginkgo.



 **BLACKMORES**  
DEDICATED TO THE BODY  
HEART & SOUL

*Proudly Australian*



Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out to you.  
Our photo-copier is developing a lot of problems and we're now very well acquainted with the various service engineers. I hope it will go without a hitch from now on.  
I'm not even halfway and my hair is getting noticeably greyer! -Elle

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