

Supercharging your soil



Sunday 17th February 2019 9am – 3 pm
Understand your soil life and nutritional requirements
& practical ways to build healthy soil

Today's Plan

- 9:00 – 9:15
Acknowledgment & Housekeeping - **HPN**
- 9:15 – 10:15
Session 1 – **Letitia**
- 10:15 – 10:35
Morning Tea
- 10:35 -12:15
Session 2 - **Letitia**
- 12:15 -13:00
Lunch
- 13:00 – 2:45
Tour of Scrubby Hill Farm
- Discussion of practical approaches to amendment preparation and application in a market garden context - **Trev**
- 2:45 – 3:00
Walk back & Wrap up - **HPN**

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Acknowledgement

We'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today.

We would like to pay our respects to Elders past and present who understood the natural relationships and nurtured the land so that future generations could continue to benefit from its bounty and beauty.

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Housekeeping

- Food & Drink
- Toilets
- Watch your step & the produce
- Emergency Plans

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Huon Producers' Network

- Vision

The Huon Producers' Network's vision for the Valley is a **vibrant** and **diverse** group of **small to medium sized producers** who work **cooperatively** to establish a **local food** bowl and **resilient** economy.

By working together we can reduce costs, **share knowledge, resources**, build our community, increase local health and prosperity and create a dynamic **force for change**.

- Aims

To support small farms and businesses to be commercially viable by encouraging the **sharing of** knowledge, resources, facilities, **ideas and experience** and to protect the environment.

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Letetia Ware



Letetia is always searching for that magical triumvirate of healthy soil, healthy plants and the resultant quality produce.

Her certified organic farm is a demonstration of her skills and knowledge in understanding, measuring and enhancing a healthy environment for her renowned garlic. Her delicious bulbs, of which there are as many as 80 cultivars, have probably been the source of most of the purple stuff on offer in the Huon Producer's Network and throughout Southern Tasmania.

She is passionate about microbial life and soil health and is always keen to share her knowledge and experience. We are lucky that she has made the time to offer her guidance at a particularly busy time of year.

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This morning we aim to cover.....

- Ideal **mineral** levels
- The relationship and **interactions** between minerals, organic matter and biology to create plant available nutrient and disease suppression
- How to feed your soil and microorganisms with both **natural inputs** and **biology**
- **Soil tests** and microbiological assessments using **microscopes**
- Becoming a microbe hunter, extracting and applying both beneficial **aerobic and fermenting microorganisms**
- Commercially available **defensive and protective** microorganisms against diseases commonly arising in Tasmania

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Scrubby Hill Farm & Trevor Wittmer



Trevor Wittmer, HPN's own gardening guru, is the manager of [Scrubby Hill Farm](#) operated by Geeveston Community Centre ([GeCo](#)) and general dog's body of [Seedfreaks](#), our Svalbard of the South and local source of heirloom seeds and seedlings.

His endless energy, effervescence and enthusiasm for all things green might have something to do with the healthy soils he's immersed in most days.

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Contents

1. Scrubby Hill Farm
 2. Compost
 3. Biochar
 4. COFs
 5. Other sources of solid amendments
 6. Compost Tea & liquid Amendments
 7. Fertigation
 8. Testing your soil
- Annexes

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1. Scrubby Hill Farm

- A. GeCo – mission/aims of Scrubby Hill Farm
- B. Site Location – impacts on soil
- C. Crops grown – soil requirements
- D. Managing different growing environments – outside and in (polytunnels/raised beds)
- E. Impact of peripheral areas on growing environments – paths and boundaries, weed & grass incursion



Image thanks to GeCo

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2. Compost

- A. It's all about balance - some brown some green, some fresh some old
- B. Nitrogen sources – which manure?
- C. Hot composting v cold composting
- D. Mineral additives
- E. Managing pH

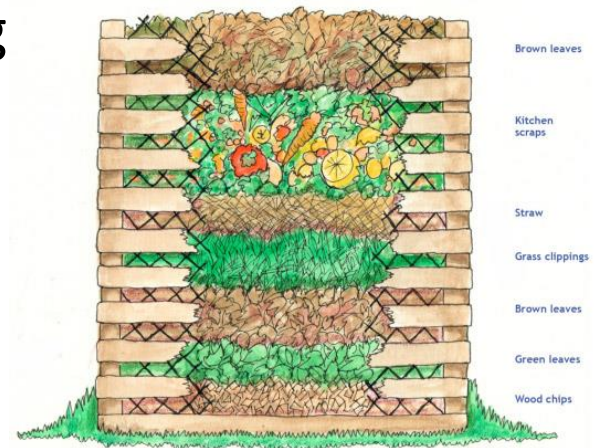


Image thanks to landscapeforlife.org

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3. Biochar

- Incomplete burning of biomass in an environment starved of oxygen – and then activated
- Gases released – what to look for
- Methods:
 - Conical pit
 - Kilns
 - Barrels

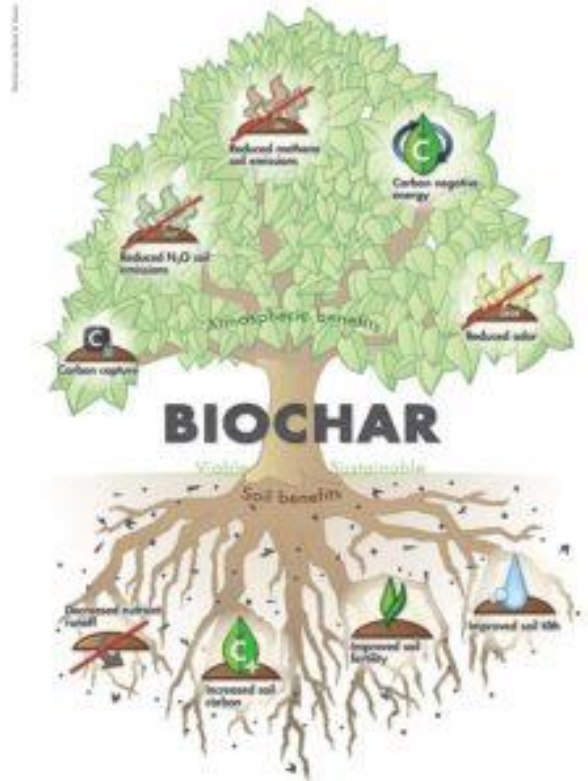


Image thanks to biochar-international.org

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4. Custom Organic Fertilizers (COFs)

Scrubby's Additives:

- Poppymeal
- Rock Phosphate
- Potassium Sulphate
- Kelp meal
- Lime



Image thanks to Mother Earth News

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5. Other sources of solid amendments

- Herbivorous manures
 - Seed banks
 - Aged v non-aged

- Carnivorous manures / carcasses / blood & bone

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6. Compost Tea & liquid amendments

- Recipe:
 - Water
 - Compost (inoculant)
 - Fish Hydrolysate/Molasses/humic acid/kelp (food)
 - Aerator
- Comfrey & Weed Teas

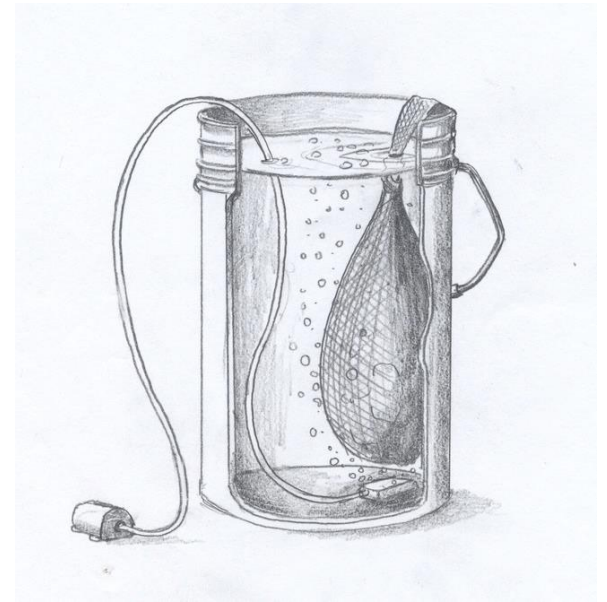


Image thanks to ucanr.edu

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7. Fertigation

- Method of delivery of liquid fertilizers
 - Aperture
 - Backpack sprayer/watering can
 - Integrated irrigation systems



Image thanks to wikipedia

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8. Testing your soil

- Soil Testing services
- pH & other test kits
- Microscopes
- Reading the signs

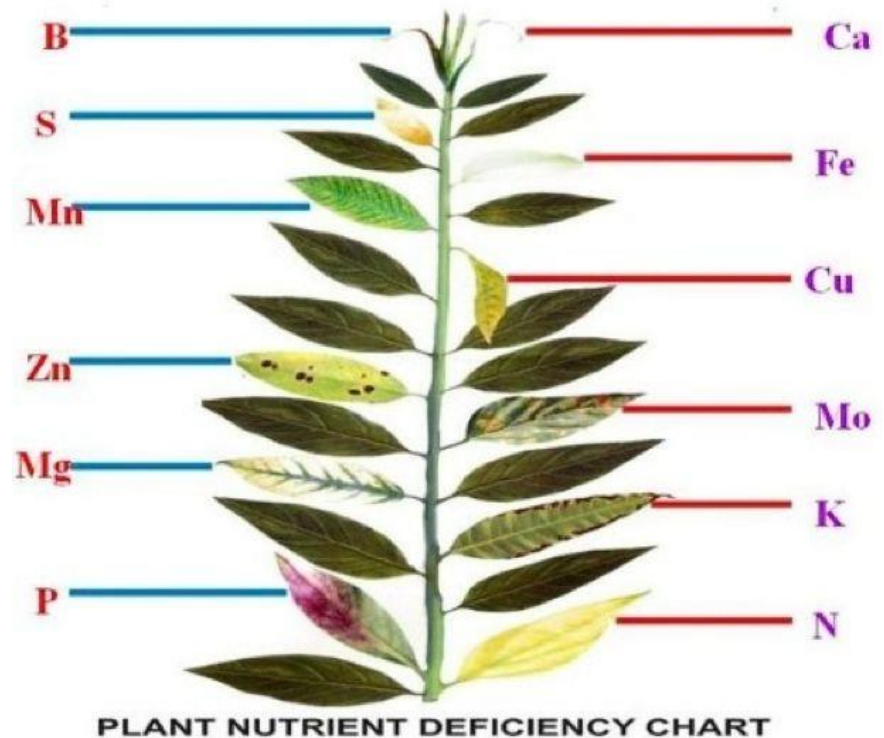


Image thanks to someone on pinterest

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Annex – A. Compost Resources

- Hobart City Council:
 - [Home Composting Tips](#)
 - www.hobartcity.com.au/Residents/Recycling-and-rubbish/Compost-and-mulch
- Good Life Permaculture
 - Free home composting workshops:
<https://goodlifepermaculture.com.au/events/>

Image thanks to University of South Florida

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Annex – B. Biochar Resources

- Terra Preta - Kilns

<http://www.terrapretadevelopments.com.au/>

- Longley Organic Farm / Active Vista – Kilns

<https://www.longleyorganicfarm.com.au/biochar-cone-kilns/>

Image thanks to University of South Florida

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Annex – C. Other Amendment Resources

- Longley Organic Farm
 - Soil health: <https://www.longleyorganicfarm.com.au/regenerative-soil>
 - Soil Dr Service: <https://www.longleyorganicfarm.com.au/soil-testing-and-analysis>

Image thanks to University of South Florida

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