

How to eliminate nut grass and other persistent weeds with biodynamic peppering - 20/6/20 Webinar hand out notes.

Note: If you have not already registered for our webinar, register here to get webinar recorded content.

Background of biodynamic peppering

Biodynamic peppering (BD peppering) is a method created by Rudolf Steiner when he commenced the Biodynamic Agriculture movement in 1924 in delivering the Agriculture lectures. The peppering method can be used for plants (weeds), insects and animals. This content concentrates on plant biodynamic peppers only.

BD peppering is a non chemical method used to clear an area of unwanted plants that are resistant to other control measures. The BD pepper is made with the unwanted plant's reproductive organ, normally a seed, but may also be a tuber (like the nut of nut grass). The BD pepper impacts the capacity of the reproductive organ of the chosen plant to receive the in-streaming energies that enable the seed to germinate. Consideration of moon and constellation positions is an important aspect of enhancing the potency of the BD peppers.

BD peppering is ideally used in conjunction with additional organic and biodynamic methods to stimulate transformation of soil to be into a sustainable living state for the cropping activities of the farm or garden. Some of these methods are outlined in the webinar and below.

How to make the BD pepper

- Gather the plant reproductive organ - Nut grass is used as the example in the short movie on the webinar. In this case, the nut of the plant is gathered during the month. Other organic matter and soil connected to and around the nut should be cleaned off so the only material left is the reproductive organ of the plant you want removed. I suggest doing a comprehensive weeding of your space over 3 week period leading up to the full moon when the BD pepper is made and applied. Gather at least 2 table spoons of nuts.
- Getting the ash – The burning of the reproductive part of the plant separates the nitrogen, sulphur, hydrogen and carbon from the seeds or tuber with the living aspect of the plant going up into the atmosphere. Getting the ash in this burning process severs life giving process for the plant. To create the ash, put the nuts (for nut grass) into a cast iron pot with a lid and burn over a hot fire. This will cook the nuts until they go black, usually takes about 2 hours. Then use a mortar and pestle to crush the nuts into powder.
- The ashing process must be done on full moon day. See “Planetary aspects” below for further instructions.
- Homeopathic potentising of the ash in water – This is demonstrated in the [webinar video](#). The BD pepper liquid should finish up after the potentising in a darkened bottle with a dropper on the top. A 7-8 times homeopathic potency is ideal.
- Once ashed and potentised the quantity of nuts described above will create sufficient BD pepper to cover a very large area for multiple applications and be stored out of light in a cool place without electricity exposure.

How to apply

- Put 7 droplets of the BD pepper into a bucket of water for an area under 500m², then use a brush or switch (long dried grass) to flick out droplets lightly over the whole area where the weed is growing. If you have a larger area you can also use a backpack sprayer. We use a 20 litre sprayer to cover about 4000m² and still use 7 drops of the pepper
- Apply on full moon day (See “Planetary aspects” below for further instructions).
- Depending on your soil management methods you may need to apply it monthly over a few years. I have found that with consistent biodynamic/organic management of soil that around 4 applications at 4 succeeding full moons is sufficient to greatly reduce the plants reproduction
- Its important to be aware of seasonal factors as there will be times of the year when the weed you want to remove grows much more than other times. When you undertake certain farming or gardening activities, for example, as soon as you cultivate you are more likely to raise weed seeds to the surface they are more likely to germinate. These seasonal and practice times will need closer attention in apply the BD pepper to ensure it does stop reproducing, so make should your BD pepper application leads up to and include these times.

Planetary Aspects

The moon has a very strong connection to fluid movement, reproduction and growth on earth. The 12 constellations, grouped into earth, air, water and fire influences, also have a significant impact on the nature and quality of form on earth. The BD pepper making is designed around severing these forces that aid reproduction of the plant you have chosen to restrict growth.

The pepper should be made at the full moon day and it can be further potentised by also doing it on a constellation day that represents a fire sign on the full moon day. This is when the moon is in line with Aries, Leo or Sagittarius with the optimum of those being Leo and Sagittarius for all weed types. A Biodynamic Calendar (with Siderial timing) is helpful in finding the most suitable full moon days in the year to make the plant pepper on the Fire sign constellations above. In Australia you can use the Astro Calendar and globally the Maria Thun Calendar to get these times.

The BD pepper application does not affect other plants in your patch. Putting out the BD pepper should be done on a full moon day.

This table below is from Hugh Lovells Quantum Agriculture book, a great reference for biodynamics. The table gives constellation relationship to plant groups and would be used when looking at which full moon day to be used for making the weed pepper:

Constellation	Sign	Plant group
Aries	Fire	Canola, wild raspberries, wild radishes
Taurus	Earth	Farmers friends, wild carrot, queen anne's lace
Cancer	Water	Buttercups, convolvulus, creeping and climbing weeds
Leo	Fire	A great variety of weeds
Virgo	Earth	Thistles, morning glory
Libra	Air	Daisy family, quick weed
Scorpio	Water	Solaniums, nightshades
Sagittarius	Fire	Fat hen, couch grass
Aquarius	Air	Shepherds purse
Pisces	Water	Grasses, wild oats, bent grass, chick weed

An ideal time to put out biodynamic soil preparations to aid soil transformation when doing a BD peppering process is to apply the BD soil preps on a moon opposition to Saturn day each month.

Moon has a strong connection to lime and moisture while Saturn has a connection to warmth and silica.

We teach how to work with these planetary forces in our regular 2 day introductory courses to biodynamics in Brisbane and Melbourne. You can see the [workshop program here](#).

Giving back to the soil

BD Peppers take away the capacity for nature to grow weeds to aid the soil in areas that you may be cultivating. In this case, its very helpful to provide a range of additional tactics to build soil life, organic matter and appropriate balance of minerals, nutrients, microbes, fungi and the myriad life forms that live in healthy soil. You can tailor your soil to your cropping and pasture needs, but additional management is needed. Here are some recommendations:

- BD soil preparations application – we do a monthly application of biodynamic soil activator on a moon opposition to Saturn day. This is the ideal day of the month to apply this BD prep that combines many of the BD preps into one brew
- Green manure cropping in your intensively cultivated spaces to crowd out weeds
- Transforming weeds:
 - Harvesting weeds before they are seeded and turning them into a weed tea that is potentiated by BD compost preps
 - Slashing weeds before they are seeded and digging them back into the soil
 - Putting weeds through a hot composting process and giving the compost back to the soil

Insect and animal peppers

- Insects – Burn the whole body of the insect, for mature insects burn on full moon when sun and moon are in Aquarius or Pisces, for wing stage larvae burn when sun and moon are in Taurus, Gemini or Cancer. Make and apply the pepper in the same way as described above for plant peppers
- Animals – Burn the skin of the animal when Venus is in Scorpio at a superior conjunction and the sun is in Scorpio. This does not happen every year.

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Peter Kearney – My Food Garden founder