

From Rhonda's Desk



It always seems that whenever I go to write a newsletter we are in drought, it is getting very monotonous. Winter breaks seem like something we are going to have to get used to. Well done to all our customers who planned early and ordered sowing blends. It helped all our staff and stopped a mad rush. YLAD

Living Soils is continuing to grow at an alarming rate and

every day I get reports of improvements either in soil health, animal health, vine or tree health. Quality is then surely the winner here. A testimonial from a grape grower at Orange is set out on page 3 showing the benefits they gained from using the Biological approach.

For YLS Seminars and Workshops I always try and obtain expert speakers; once again I have scoped the pool getting Edwin J Blosser & Roger and Galen Kropf from the US.

Knowledge is Power

International Compost & Soil Fertility Workshops

International Keynote Speakers: Edwin J Blosser, Roger & Galen Kropf

YOUNG NSW - September 2006

In life if we wish hard enough our dreams will come true. Since Bill and I attended the **Advanced Composting Systems Workshop** run by Mid-West Bio-Systems in Florida 2005 I have been working (very hard) on getting **Edwin Blosser to visit Australia** to hold a workshop. Eureka, I have done it.

Not only do I have Edwin coming but two of his very accomplished associates, Roger and Galen Kropf. They are experts in their field of composting and thorough gentlemen who understand the 'speed' at which us normal people take in new information.

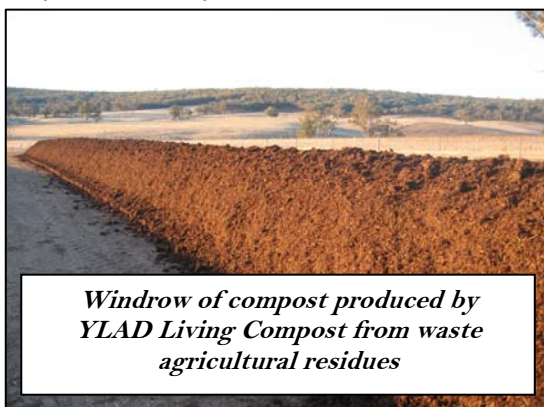
Edwin Blosser, President of Midwest Bio-Systems, is a soil and compost specialist. A biological soil consultant for 15 years Edwin continues to stress the power of converting organic matter into valuable carbon through microbial activity. The MBS systems approach to soil fertility recognizes that many factors are involved in building soil back to 'new ground' condition.

The Soil Fertility and Compost Benefit Workshop will be a one day Workshop on September 19, 2006, at the Young S & C Club. Edwin has experience working with all crops, pastures, horticulture and viticulture and has devised many new strategies for looking at 'old' problems. You will come away from the Workshop having developed the foundations for Measuring, Controlling and Monitoring the nine critical factors of a fertile, healthy, living soil, driving them towards optimum. Compost use and benefits will also be covered in detail. **Cost - \$80 inc GST per person**

Edwin wants to equate himself with our farming practices and soils so he can assist us in solving any 'nagging' problems we may have in achieving healthy, disease and weed free crops. Edwin believes that Mineral blends including humified compost and compost tea inoculums deliver the all important microbial population diversity essential to 'growing' new soil.



Participants from all countries attended the MBS Workshop in Florida US



Windrow of compost produced by YLAD Living Compost from waste agricultural residues

The Advanced Composting System Workshop will run over three days where Edwin, Roger and Galen will teach the fundamental science of producing **highly effective humified compost** from agricultural and industrial wastes. The Workshop will consist of a blend of theory and practical sessions at the Moppity Road Compost Site set up by YLAD Living Compost. Learn how to develop windrow recipes, when to turn & water compost, the use of microbial inoculums and how to monitor the three critical areas for producing humified compost, namely, temperature, CO₂ and moisture. **\$500 incl GST for 3 day Workshop**

These two events will be outstanding, set the dates aside now as Edwin Blosser and his consultants are known soil and compost gurus. It is an excellent opportunity to learn from dedicated, passionate

For further information or registration forms please call Rhonda or Symone on (02) 6382 2165

INTERACTIONS AND BENEFITS TO PLANT PRODUCTION COURSE

Rhonda will attend a two week course at Lismore conducted by Graham Lancaster (Environmental Analysis Lab) and Elaine Ingram (Soil Foodweb) in July. The course will look at the interactions between soil chemistry and biology, and examine the functions of major soil organism groups.

If Rhonda passes all exams she will then become a registered Soil Foodweb Consultant!!

Young Shire Council lead Biological Oval Management



Young Shire Council has recently undertaken an extensive broadcast program to renovate all playing fields with natural mineral fertilisers containing beneficial biology from **YLAD Living Soils**. The YSC is looking at these types of alternative methods fertilisation for the parks, gardens and playing fields in Young to create a **healthier environment for the safety of people and animals**, as well as the longevity of the oval soils.

YSC have been using YLS products on their parks and gardens for two years and are very happy with results achieved.

Hugh Jackson from YSC uses penetrometer to check for any physical restraints limiting turf establishment. Foliar fertilisers were applied to ovals in 2005 and already ovals are becoming softer and requiring less water.

Product Price Increase

NTS have for quite some time been absorbing price increases across the board. From June 30 there will be a 5% increase in all products. The 17.7% freight surcharge that we have been passing on will be added into the overall cost of the product from this date.

With ever increasing prices of fertiliser and freight it is all the more reason to encourage a balanced soil biota to recycle nutrient.

FEBRUARY SEMINARS A HUGE SUCCESS

In February 2006, YLS held three days of fantastic Seminars. The Seminars were held in Eurongilly, Young Oberon with an outstanding attendance on all days.

Zouch in Young nearly saw the walls expand as more people just kept arriving.

All guest speakers stimulated participant's minds and stretched their knowledge of soil carbon, soil biology, plant breeding, human health and animal health.

Thank you to Mal & Rose Forsyth for their hours of tireless work in assisting with running the Eurongilly Seminar. Moral in this area was very low after the devastating fires sweep their farms. The Seminar bought some hope to these farmers.

Mal spoke like a 'professional' on the results achieved using the YLS liquid inject sowing system in 2005 and a farm visit illustrated his commitment to this system of injecting living biology around the seed enabling him to cut back on fertiliser use, particularly Nitrogen.



Vin de Vie - Vineyard Testimonial Orange NSW

I have just completed an audit on how the vineyard has performed this year. To recap how we have reached this point.

We are a young vineyard **established in 2001** on a pre-existing orchard of 30 years. The soils had been **completely unbalanced** and the only fertilizer applied over the years had been lime.

After conventional soil reports had been done and recommendations of more lime and gypsum to be applied to solve out poor growth problems we **started looking for an alternative approach.**

In our early stages of looking for solutions, in Orange, we were alone and had to rely on our own research. We started off by applying rock phosphate in 2002, having a saddle tank made for the tractor to apply solutions of fish, kelp, sugar and vitamin B12 every time the tractor passed over the ground (**looking after those little critters that do all the work below ground**). By chance I was told of a Nutri-Tech Solutions supplier in South Australia and after one season with them we were recommended to **use YLAD Living Soils** by them as logistics were very difficult.

In 2005 we had our second Reams test done. **YLAD Living Soils** recommended we have Nutri-Tech Solutions see the report. NTS not only made recommendation but gave us a report that **we could read and make our own judgements of what we could apply.**



With consultation from **YLAD Living Soils** and **NTS's** scientific support, we had a program tailor made for **Vin de Vie Vineyard** and followed the recommended program, listed below are some the products used

Life-Force Prescription Blend which includes Nutri-Blend, Soft Rock Phosphate, Raw Humates, Basalt Sand, Nutri-Cal Rapid Release and is inoculated with four fungi and 20 bacteria species,. Bio-Balancing was achieved using Compost Teas fortnightly, Nutri-Life Vam and Huma-Tech Liquid Humus, .

Disease Management in the vineyard this season was considerably easier as the **overall vine health has improved.** Our main concern has been with **Downey Mildew** and of course **Powdery Mildew.** We came through the season **without these diseases causing problems to our grapes.** Long term I hope we will reduce any out break as the soil comes more in balance, resulting in good vine health.

We were happy with our crop this year; the chardonnay had lovely flavour, strong skins, reaching our Brix goal without any disease issues. Though Shiraz had no disease issues colour has been a major concern across NSW, **we were one of the few vineyards in the district to reach the necessary colour parameters. Vin de Vie exceeded its colour targets.**

We have come a long way in a short time and are very pleased to have made a start with **biological farming.** After this seasons results we look forward to 2006/07.

Testimonial supplied by
Claire & Peter Hordern, Ross & Ingrid Hordern
Vin de Vie Vineyard
NASHDALE

Results of improved soil fertility, increased yield, less disease and higher quality grapes have been achieved by all viticulture customers using the Life-Force® program

YLS looks forward to working with customers to achieve a high quality 2007 grape harvest

2006 LIQUID INJECT TRIALS – ‘MILGADARA’ YOUNG

With increased yield, less fertiliser and reduced costs showing up in the 2004 Liquid Inject Trials, Bill and James Daly of ‘Milgadara’ have planted all crops this season with this system.

To continue to advance and simplify the liquid inject system; trials will be planted on ‘Milgadara’ this year under the watchful eye of Guy Webb of Gia Consulting. Results will be recorded and published after harvest.

Nutrient of the Month – Sodium Molybdate

The Nitrogen Catalyst

Sodium Molybdate (**Mo**) is needed in very small amounts, 1 ppm can be all that is needed to solve a deficiency problem. Mo is crucial for nitrogen assimilation and protein synthesis, been responsible for **reducing nitrates to ammonium**, (this is the first step in protein synthesis).

Mo is essential for an enzyme required by **Azotobacter** (free living nitrogen fixers) to fix atmospheric nitrogen into a plant-available form. Also, symbiotic **Rhizobium bacteria** used to inoculate Legumes need **Mo** in association with iron to do their job. This form of N fixation by Rhizobium would not happen without adequate **Mo**.



High nitrates in the plant gives the plant a very specific **frequency signature**, which insects have evolved to be able to pick up via their **antennae**. They seek out plants with high nitrates, because they need nitrates to fulfil their **reproductive cycles**. So, a plant with high nitrates in the leaf and stem is saying to be pest **'come get me, I'm all yours'**.

Mo deficiency is similar to those of a nitrogen deficiency.

The role of **Mo** is also necessary in **animal production** as it aids in the mobilisation of iron, nitrogen and copper. Associated health problems caused by high nitrate pasture may be attributed to **Mo deficiency**.

Due to the reduced availability in acid soils perform a **YLS soil test** to ascertain your soil levels. Sodium Molybdate can be purchased from YLS in small or large quantities.

Picture: Lupins inoculated with Rhizobium and YLS Seed Dressing show massive nodulation. Mo was foliared onto the paddock at the rate of 150gms per/ha.

Down the Tube consisted of 80 kg/ha guano granules, 30 kg MAP, 5kg Boron Humate Granules & 4 kg Zinc Mono. Nitrogen fixing by legumes would not occur without sufficient Mo. – Test your soils today

LIFE-FORCE® PASTURE BOOST TRIAL

YLAD Living Soils is partaking in the **South West Slopes Merino Breeders** and **DPI Pasture Trial**. The first field day will be held around October when soil test and feed tests will be taken.

Life-Force® Pasture Boost is providing an alternative fertiliser that is biologically boosted and nutritionally balanced, designed to maximise soil, pasture and stock productivity.

Order now for Pasture Fertilisation in late Winter

YLAD Living Compost

'While you live you grow', this is certainly the case with YLAD where we are always seeking ways of providing products that will benefit soil health and fertility and ultimately production and yield, and of course the environment.

In April 2006 we purchased a compost turner and began making humified **compost**. Compost can be used either as an ingredient in our Life-Force®

Blends or as a stand alone, to increase the carbon content and diversity of biology in the soil.

Don't miss the **September Seminar** with **Edwin J Blosser** who will highlight the **benefits of adding compost** to mineral blends. If you are interested in compost production don't miss the 3 day workshop.

Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off your goal