

Farming Secrets Digest

Become a Farming Secrets Member today! Special Offer Below on Page 1!

Special points of interest:

- Why does Wild Radish grow?
- Take an online course with Dr. Elaine Ingham
- Focus on Compost and Compost Teas
- Notes about worms from Tigger

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Farming Secrets Guarantees Profitable Viable Farming With Less Effort And Expenditure Even If You Think You Know Everything There Is To Know About Farming

Welcome to our 9th Farming Secrets Digest! On reflection we've been extremely busy once again so we have chosen our highlights for you.

There is an exciting new initiative taking place and that is the formation of a new group: Healthy Soils Australia bringing together many groups in this arena. It has been formed to support Australian farmers look after their No. 1 priority—the soil. We'll keep you posted as we are part of the group and one of our members, Tom Nicholas, is a major player.



Hugo with Rob Sutherland at De Bortoli's Winery (see p3.)

We are extremely concerned about the Government response to reports about GM canola escaping and growing on the roadside in NSW and have written to both the papers and to the government. Please speak out about the issue and

do support farmer Julie Newman who is doing an absolutely outstanding job on the farmer's behalf. Her voluntary website is: www.non-gm-farmers.com As a farmer you will be outraged at your loss of rights with the introduction of GM. You can read all about it there.

Are you getting our emails?

You are missing out on our hot tips and latest news Email : info@farmingsecrets.com

What is the importance

More and more farmers are questioning of the information they have been dished out in the past. They want to know the truth of how the soil delivers and how the plant grows. They are becoming wary of what the industry is selling them as the costs are steadily creeping up and productivity (in case of broad acre farming) has been slipping over the last 10 years, even for the farmers who are in areas where they get good rainfall.



Colin Crossman with Hugo

Most Farming Secrets members appreciate the importance of soil biology, the soil life and the ability of the plants to harvest 90% or more of their own constitution from the atmosphere such is their complexity.

Did you know that over 90% of what makes up the plant originates from the atmosphere, which is above the ground? So how come we keep adding things? What we need is to understand how nature works and allow her, or at least aid her, in doing her work and help us with our farming. **So where do we start?**

Most modern farming methods interrupt the soil food web so that it does not function as nature intended whereas biological farming methods tend to work with nature. Holistic management is also an important aspect of this.

As more farmers seek answers it has become clear to us the importance of the foundation that Dr. Elaine Ingham provides through her courses.

of understanding the

Soil Foodweb Institute (SFI) principles work in accordance with nature and those who follow their programs are reporting great results: better yields, reduced inputs, less chemicals, retained moisture, healthier systems. There is a great report regarding grape production in SFI's latest newsletter p.9 at: www.soilfoodweb.com.au/

We invite you all to read the special flyer enclosed and *we urge all serious farmers to get this course. It is the basis for truly understanding the soil food web.* **Here's an Invitation for You**

We also invite you to become a Farming Secrets member NOW! This month our **members only** can be part of Elaine Ingham's 1st ever online soil course based on the **"Critical Invisible Soil Fertility Solutions Revealed" True Fertility Workshop**. This is for **15 members only!** It is not too late for YOU to become a member!

Join TODAY to be part of this!

What Our Latest Members Say:

About biological farming:-

Peter recently commenced spraying out his 1st compost teas following correct brewing methods and testing of the finished product. By spraying out his compost tea he now reports this grass is growing particularly well and is well advanced in comparison to other district farms.

A Trial member who is an agricultural scientist was extremely skeptical about biological farming prior to listening to the latest "Talk the Walk" After listening to Elaine it was clear to him that he has to re-educate himself as Elaine made so much sense in what she had to say about the merits of biological farming.

Trekking around with Hugo and Helen

First off we attended the Federation of Biological Farmers (FBF) day at Nagambie where Dr Maarten Stapper was speaking ...and he's almost lost his voice! Unheard of for Maarten but he still spoke extremely passionately about biological farming. Every time we hear



him we hear new things. It was great also to catch up with old friends and Farming Secrets members as we looked at a nearby compost operation and trial crops with Carl Reeve, President FBF (L), Colin Leask, (Above) and with Maarten.



Here's member Andrew Ibbott with the compost turner. He'd brought his family along from Finley to learn more about biological farming from Maarten. He estimates that by being a member his irrigation water costs will be reduced dramatically.



Maarten travelled back to Melbourne with us where we held a talk "Why Do We Have Problems With Food?" Maarten received a very enthusiastic response from a small, dedicated group. More later!

The machine below is De Bortoli's Crimper which travels up and down the interrows crimping the Swan oats planted there in 3 places.



It also drops millet seeds in front as it goes and then at the rear is an attachment which rips a shallow furrow to help with aeration.

Once the oats are crimped they form a layer over the new seed both protecting it and keeping the moisture in the soil. Quite brilliant!

We also checked out Rob's under vine planting of clover which is taking off and will return to

film the compost teas being sprayed out, bit wet and windy right now.

What Farming Secrets means to members:

I have found answers and explanations

"Since being a member of Farming Secrets Club I have learnt a lot and have found answers and explanations to questions as to why modern farming is plagued with weeds, insects, infertility and in general the "system" just isn't working without huge expense.

The DVD's featuring Elaine Ingham, Arden Anderson and Jerry Brunetti are invaluable as they explain what is happening in the soil, which the ordinary farmer, unless he has a microscope and is educated on such matters, cannot know."

Anthony Garvey, Dairy & Beef cattle, Yackandandah, Vic

Phone hookup—so easy to use.

"I am impressed with the phone hookup arrangements. To be able to speak directly to Dr. Ingham; to hear her speak for 1 hour and 40 minutes and obtain her up to the minute insights and knowledge while still at my desk has been amazing. Congratulations to Farming Secrets for taking the internet technology and making it so easy for me to use"

David Thomas, Cereal, Warracknabeal, Vic

No one says it better than Elaine

"Thanks for organising the great on line talk. No one says it better than Elaine. Just an excellent answer."

Kathy Sadler, Sheep & Cereal, Wongan Hills, WA

Tigger Tales! for all her farmyard friends.

Do they give you worm tablets? Once again, I'm here to say that you don't need to take worm tablets unless they put you in a boarding kennel when they go away! I'm lucky as I get to go away or I get to stay with my friends, Marks and Sparks. So what do I get for worms? Well, I asked Helen to take a photo of my dog bowl.



That's the one on the left that says "Good Dog" at the bottom. That's me! What else can you see? Those brown circles are 2 cent coins which are made out of copper. If you haven't got any coins, a piece of copper will do the trick. The secret? Worms just don't like copper! The best part is that I don't get any strong toxic chemicals that can end up damaging my health. I'd better tell you—I actually have 2 bowls so I can have a choice too as



the other one just has water. We don't have any cats but they can also be treated likewise.

Now I want to thank all the farmers who loved reading my news and even copied Tigger Tales for their friends! I'm soooo glad that all my friends are hearing the news. **Now prick up your ears!** Next Farming Secrets Digest I'm going to tell you about why I don't get cans of so called "dog food". If you ask me it should be called "dog poison"!

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GOLD NUGGET

Hi to our valuable "Farming Secrets Club" members both new and old. Are you enjoying your weekly **Gold Nuggets**? As you know, we cover a range of topics to stimulate your thinking. For ALL previous Gold Nuggets visit our Farming Secrets Members Forum.

To Increase Their Yields And Get A Bigger Return Most Farmers Are Told To Feed Their Soils.

Let's look at some basics of how the plants and soils function which get overlooked in main stream agriculture. A plant consists mainly of products that come from above the soil – that is from the atmosphere or the cosmos. These products come in the form of gases and atomic particles.

Did you know that there are typically 40 million bacterial cells in a gram of soil and a million bacterial cells in a millilitre of fresh water? Bacteria is absolutely essential to all life above the ground as we know it in this world.

Our world is calculated to be 4.6 billion years old and the oldest fossilised bacteria which has been found was in Australia and is about 3.5 billion years old.

Even the air we breathe only came into

existence 2.5 billion to 600,000 million years ago.

Did you know that a single table-spoon of healthy soil might contain over a billion beneficial soil microbes!!!

In a healthy soil there are literally hundreds and hundreds of species of soil bacteria, soil fungi, and many other microscopic soil organisms. The problem is that most of the soils that have been farmed conventionally have a very low population of these valuable and important soil microbes.

A Letter from a Member:

Dear Helen and Hugo,
I'd like to thank you for bringing to us Farming Secrets. The information I have accessed has been invaluable. When Tony and I purchased our 70 acres we knew we didn't want to go down the superphosphate road along with all the other chemical inputs. But it was hard to find information to start with. It didn't take long to work out that many agronomists were connected to the company peddling the chemical fertilisers and as soon as you mentioned something like "native grass" they were quite

out of their depth.

I started going to a few seminars on various subjects and they were all good and interesting but we often came home without the specific information I needed to have a go! That's when I joined Farming Secrets and that's when I really got the 'nuts and bolts' on what to do -- say with composting which has also led on to worm composting and worm compost teas. People like Gerhard and Maarten Stapper and Elaine Ingham, Rob Fenton, Ron and Bev Smith -- the list just goes on and on, have all got so much knowledge and have shared that knowledge and experiences with Farming Secrets/Members. I really look forward each month to the next Walk the Talk and Talk the Walk DVDs/CDs
Thanks so much Helen and Hugo
Jane Wells, Sutton Grange, Vic

Help! Where Do I Start?

Farming Secrets is invaluable, pointing you to the shortest way to profitable, healthy, sustainable farming. We sincerely invite you to join us NOW!

WANTED! People to distribute this newsletter for free! Email in your order!

Articles please! Have YOU got a great farm story or handy hints for your fellow farmers?

Contact Us Now! Please help us make Farming Secrets Digest relevant and real for you!!