

TOPIC: ORGANIC GARDENING – TIPS & TRICKS

GUEST SPEAKER : PHIL RYAN

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 27 January, 2016

- Phil has been a member of Brisbane Organic Growers for 14 years and loves sharing his experiences. He said visiting country garden clubs is like going on an adventure
- Organic Gardening – growing without pesticides etc but building up healthy soil over time using natural composted materials, schist, shale and clay. Phil has made up over 2000 bins of compost over 14 years. Essential to chop material finely so it breaks down quickly
- Comfrey leaves are great composters as they contain 15 of the richest minerals in plants
- Plant comfrey to get morning sun and some shade. It is a clumping plant with a tap root going down about 2 feet (61cm) to bring up minerals etc. Give occasional liquid feed
- When planting out roses etc dig ½m deep hole and layer with broken up polystyrene, then a dozen torn comfrey leaves and top with 'perfect soil' and liquid kelp
- PHIL'S RECIPE FOR 'PERFECT SOIL' – 1 bag shredded cow manure; 1 bag mushroom compost; 1 bag palagonite; 1 bag vermiculite; 1 mug-full Epsom Salts. Blend all ingredients in a cement mixer or wheel barrow using a shovel. Use immediately or store in bags or containers in cool, sheltered area. Together these ingredients hold moisture and make perfect soil – no commercial product comes close. ALWAYS WEAR A MASK WHEN USING/MIXING DRY INGREDIENTS. If mask forgotten, smear Vaseline under and up nostrils. Colin Campbell swore by Epsom Salts in the garden
- Tree Paste protects against borers. It contains food grade diatomaceous earth, shredded cow manure, liquid seaweed kelp, worm juice. It lasts about 3 months when painted on trees. 1 tub will make up 3L. If have worm farm sprinkle with handful of Quinoa flakes to feed worms if going away for few days
- Diatomaceous Earth is good dusting powder for lettuce and roses and leaf suckers. Also spray with molasses 35ml to 1L water. Drenching soil with molasses mixture inhibits nematodes. It sticks to leaves – insects hate it. Non-stick Canola cooking spray will suffocate insects. Caterpillars hate molasses spray and dusting powder. Dusting and spraying is very worthwhile as breeding insects need a feed – be proactive and beat them to it. Mix liquid kelp into molasses spray to spray feed plants early – before 9.30am
- Make up Condies Crystals to pink colour plus a squirt of molasses for black spot, rust, mildew, other pests and insects. (Be careful as Condies Crystals stain – good for tineas)
- Sea Rock fertiliser comprised of seaweed kelp and palagonite, contains over 80 trace minerals – use on seedlings, pots and hanging baskets. 1tsp per new seedling on planting.
- For Orchids, make a cloth teabag with pantyhose or Chux, fill with 6tsp Sea Rock to 2tsp Epsom Salts. Wedge the wet bag among the roots. Keep moist for best results, replace as needed. Larger pots and hanging baskets will need an increase in the mix ratio
- For infestation of MONOLEPTIS AUSTRALIS, drench tree with molasses mix then paint on Tree Paste

PHIL MAY BE CONTACTED AFTER HOURS (07) 3351 2041: EMAIL: philsorganics@optusnet.com.au

ALL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT 'THE PLOT – FERNY GROVE, BRISBANE. Some products are seasonal and may not be available all year round. Farm Gate Sales arranged by appointment only. Orders can be collected from The Plot. If phoning please ring after dark but before 8pm. END.