

STORING BIODYNAMIC PREPARATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The proper care and storage of the biodynamic preparations is essential if their effectiveness is to be maintained. Inappropriate or careless handling can render the preparations impotent. Certain cautions apply to all the preparations, while different groups of them have similar storage requirements. This presentation attempts to outline the most important requirements for proper biodynamic preparations storage and does not presume to be all-inclusive or the final authority on the subject. It can be helpful to think that storing preparations is like storing vegetables or grains. One wants to preserve as much vitality and freshness as possible until they are used.***

IN GENERAL...

- Preparations must not come in physical contact to one another or with foreign substances (peat moss, straw, etc.)
- Preparations must be kept away from electronic and electric circuitry. We recommend an arbitrary distance of at least eight feet but better would be a remote location or one separated from electromagnetic fields by a wall made of stone or other natural materials.
- Keep preparations away from noxious fumes (gasoline, household chemicals, etc.).

PREPARATIONS STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Storing #500 #502 #503 #504 #505 #506 & Barrel Compost

Storage Requirements These preparations above all must be kept from drying out. They must be stored in a cool place away from excessive light, but they must be allowed to "breathe". They should be kept separately in one of the following kinds of containers (in order of preference): Glazed ceramic crocks, glass, or unglazed clay vessel. Some BD practitioners drill three or so small drain holes into the crock bottoms. Lids should be loose fitting. Suggested lid material in order of preference is crockery, natural stone (slate, etc.), glass, wood (not ply), metal, and cork. A root cellar, an old well house or pit, or a shaded outbuilding are considered good locations to keep these preparations.

Storage Receptacles Storage receptacles should be surrounded on all sides by at least three inches of peat moss. Long-fibered sphagnum peat is less likely to "dust" into and contaminate the preparations. Pulverized peat can be wetted down a bit to prevent dusting. A diagram for a portable or stationary wooden "prep box" is given below. Very small amounts of preparations can be stored in clean glass baby food jars or the like and loosely stoppered. (In a pinch, the jars lids can be used and punctured in a couple of spots). Another low budget storage possibility (stationary) is to dig a wooden barrel (or part of one) or stacked beehive boxes/supers into the soil, and then place the containers surrounded by peat moss inside this space. A flat stone can be used as a floor if necessary.

The preparations should not be allowed to freeze (it is not certain to what extent if any natural freezing would denature them). The cover of the prep box or storage area must have the three-inch peat moss insulation. Best would be a cover made of wood, such as the thin slats from old pallets as shown in the diagram (avoid ply and treated woods and plastic). A burlap or other natural fiber "pillow" stuffed with peat is also possible but the fabric tends to deteriorate quickly and "bleed" peat into the individual containers.

#501

Storage Requirements

- Avoid moisture
- Expose to direct sunlight (The receptacle may be kept on a windowledge)

Storage Receptacles

- Original horn sheath
- Clear glass container with non-plastic lid.

#508

Storage Requirements

- Keep in a dry, dark location.

Storage Receptacles

- Any dry opaque container.

#507

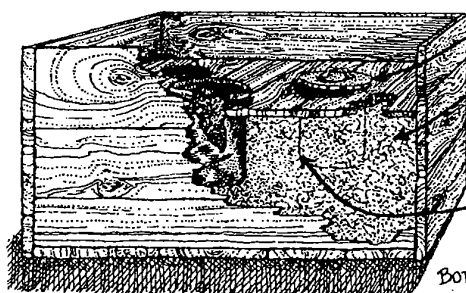
Storage Requirements

- Avoid exposure to light
- Keep cool
- Keep tightly stoppered (fermentation gases may need to be vented from time to time).

Storage Receptacles

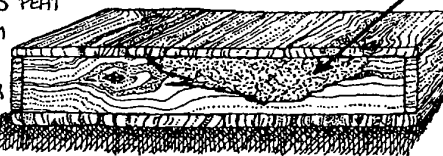
- Glass bottle, preferably brown. (The clear glass vials in which the individual units are shipped can be put inside a brown glass bottle.)

PREP BOX CROSS SECTION



RECEPTACLE STICKS OUT 1/2" OR SO PAST WOOD SEAL.
WOOD SEAL WITH CUTOUTS FOR RECEPTACLES KEEPS PEAT DUST AWAY FROM PREPARATIONS.
PEAT MOSS 3" OR MORE BETWEEN RECEPTACLES, BOTTOMS AND SIDES OF BOX.

LID FOR BOX



FILL INSIDE OF LID WITH PEAT BEFORE NAILING DOWN LAST SIDE. JOINTS MUST BE TIGHT.

**** A basic storage setup is not difficult to arrange. However, the "finer points" can be confusing. Please write or phone your questions to: Josephine Porter Institute, PO Box 133, Woolwine, VA 24185 (276) 930-2463
IF NO STORAGE IS AVAILABLE, USE PREPARATIONS NO LATER THAN THREE WEEKS AFTER RECEIVING THEM!! (540) 745-7030