

Applied BIODYNAMICS®



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The Jupiter Occultations from November 2004 to August 2005 – Another Biodynamic Opportunity?

Hugh J. Courtney

Biodynamic practitioners will have another unique opportunity to positively affect the health of planet Earth, and perhaps even the fiscal health of human society. Just as was done in November 2003 during the Harmonic Concordance and in June 2004 at the time of the Venus transit, biodynamic practitioners can take steps in relation to the numerous occultations by the moon which will be affecting the planet Jupiter over the next several months. These steps can provide the support for a positive outcome for the energies associated with these celestial events. Beginning November 9, 2004, the planet Jupiter will be occulted some eleven times in a row by the Moon during the conjunction of those two bodies each lunar month through August 10, 2005. Although occultations of Jupiter are not extraordinarily unusual, it is a great rarity that such events take place repeatedly to this degree. Unfortunately, I have not had sufficient time to research exactly how rare this particular series might be. However, a review of the years 1999 through 2003 reveals only seven occultations of Jupiter during that five-year period with a maximum of only four in any one sequence. Occultations of Jupiter occur on November 9, and December 7 in 2004; and on January 3 and 31, February 27, March 26 (Easter Saturday), April 22, May 19, June 16, July 13, and finally on August 10 in 2005. Such a series

of occultations suggests that the influence of Jupiter will be much diminished. In terms of agriculture, a substantially lowered yield could be forecast. In terms of world economy, one could surmise that the financial picture is likely to be more than a little bleak. Another way to state the preceding is that this series of events may well herald a period of “seven lean years.”

In order to counter the probable negative energies affecting the planet Jupiter with this extended series of occultations

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occultation, n. 2. *Astronomy.* (a) The passage of a celestial body across a line between an observer and another celestial object, as when the moon moves between the Earth and the sun in a solar eclipse. (b) The progressive blocking of light, radio waves, or other radiation from a celestial source during such a passage. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition.*



Notes

As you prepare for the coming year, we hope you can participate in an important sequential spray protocol. A rare event unfolding now is the numerous Jupiter occultations which began in November 2004 and will continue until August 2005. Hugh Courtney's Jupiter occultation article outlines the particular need for biodynamic practitioners to get involved in the sequential spray protocol in the months ahead.

Also to pursue in this issue is a worthwhile exercise to develop a personal relationship to all nine of the biodynamic preparations. Hugh offers guidelines for those who seek a deeper understanding of the preps beyond standard application practices.

The presence of biodynamics steadily increases in all aspects of agriculture, especially in the vineyards. Since we first published a directory (see *Applied Biodynamics*, Issue No. 38) of vineyards observing biodynamic practices two years ago, the number has nearly doubled in the U.S. For your further interest in wines produced from biodynamic grapes, we have included in the newsletter an updated directory of vineyards using biodynamic practices.

While we like to be the bearer of good news and positive happenings in the biodynamic community, we regret to announce a substantial but necessary price increase for many products and services. With this advance notice, and reasons

for the increase explained in this issue, we appreciate your understanding and continued support of JPI in these challenging economic times.

—Patricia Smith, Editor

Subscription Renewal

It is now time to renew your subscription to *Applied Biodynamics*. We hope you find the topics covered here informative and helpful. So please, renew today by filling out the enclosed form so your subscription will not lapse.

Three Kings Preparation

Remember to place your order for the Three Kings Preparation. The preparation is \$20.00 plus shipping and handling. Orders must be received by Monday, December 20, 2004.

Associative Contracts Due

Please submit your Associative Contract to JPI by January 31, 2005, unless other arrangements are made. Consult the JPI product catalog for details about the contract or call (276)930-2463 if you have questions. The absolute final deadline for contracts to be received is March 31, 2005.

Those who send in their contracts by January 31, 2005 will be able to receive current prices ahead of the scheduled cost increase (see page 5) that will occur February 1, 2005.

Applied Biodynamics

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The Editor, *Applied Biodynamics*
P.O. Box 133
Woolwine, VA 24185, U.S.A.
Phone: (276)930-2463; Fax: (276)930-2475
<www.jpibiodynamics.org>

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Mission



The Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Bio-Dynamics Inc. (JPI), was founded to produce quality biodynamic agricultural preparations based on the spiritual-scientific research of Rudolf Steiner.

It serves as a living memorial to Josephine Porter, a pioneer for this work in America.

The mission of JPI also includes education and research in biodynamic agriculture. JPI undertakes these tasks so that the earth may be healed.

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The Jupiter Occultations from November 2004 to August 2005 – Another Biodynamic Opportunity?

tations, an appropriate use of the biodynamic preparations might well be able to ameliorate the results here on Earth (be it agriculturally on the one hand or financially on the other). In the same manner as the recent transit of Venus in June of 2004 served to “eat up” the sun’s light and energy, the Moon could well “eat up” some of the energy that might otherwise emanate from Jupiter. It should be noted that during the Venus transit, it was likely that the energy of Venus was also diminished because it was traveling in the plane of the ecliptic. This allowed the Sun’s sphere to have a negative or diminishing effect on Venus, in addition to the eclipsing effect that the Venus transit had on the sun. When the series of sprays was suggested for the Venus transit, it was recommended that both BD #501 for the Sun and BD #502 for Venus would help curtail the negative aspects of the event. In the case of the Jupiter occultations, it is probable that only Jupiter needs support, since it is not exerting the same kind of negative impact on the Moon as the Sun was exerting on Venus.

If one wishes to reinforce the diminished energies of the occulted Jupiter, one must determine which particular preparation should be applied in order to best serve that role. Again, while there is less than total agreement on which planets relate to which biodynamic preparation, the assignment of the Dandelion preparation (BD #506) to the planet Jupiter shares the same degree of virtual unanimity that the Yarrow preparation (BD #502) has in relation to the planet Venus. Therefore, my first choice to support the energy of the planet Jupiter would be to consider an increased application of BD #506.

While any of the above listed occultation periods might

benefit from the spray schedule detailed on page 4, the first best window of application would be during the period December 2 to December 11, 2004. An invitation was issued to other biodynamic practitioners to consider applying a kind of “sequential spray,” as we will be doing at JPI in the period before and after the occultation of Jupiter on December 7. Unfortunately we did not become alert to this Jupiter occultation situation soon enough to get the word out to a wide audience. However, since the December occultation is merely the second in this long series of occultations, a look ahead quickly reveals that additional opportunities are available to join together with others in such “sequential sprays.”

As explained previously in the article on the Venus Transit of 2004, the reason I make this suggestion has to do with what I called the “resonance factor.” Basically the resonance factor involves the multiplying effect that is achieved when people all around the country, and even around the world, apply the biodynamic preparations more or less simultaneously. In other words, when I spray the preparations on my farm or garden, it mostly affects just my farm or garden. If others at some distance also join with me in spraying more or less the same sequence of preparations, at essentially the same time that I do, the effects of our spraying are linked and will result in a much greater benefit to the Earth. Since one hardly has the objective tools to measure such a claim, you may choose to see it merely as my illusion. If, on the other hand, you choose to take action and spray as well, the results can be quite positive even when cause and effect for such results remains impossible to prove. Those who participated in the sequential spray effort in November of 2003, centered about the so-called “Harmonic Concordance”; or who have applied the Three King’s Preparation of Hugo Erbe on January 6 in recent years; or who participated in the earlier invitation this year during the Venus transit, may also have an awareness of this “resonance” factor.

Subsequent to this article, a detailed schedule of possible spray times will be provided covering these periods when we will be attempting to provide some additional positive support for the diminished Jupiter energies. You are invited to join together with those of us at JPI in a Jupiter energy enhancement sequential spray application during the times indicated during the year 2005. Please RSVP your intentions to <info@jpibiodynamics.org> or by calling us at (276)930-2463. Together we can make a difference.

Biodynamic Preparations Legend

BD #500 – Horn Manure

BD #501 – Horn Silica

BD #502 – Yarrow

BD #503 – Chamomile

BD #504 – Stinging Nettle

BD #505 – Oak Bark

BD #506 – Dandelion

BD #507 – Valerian

} Compost
Preparations

BD #508 – Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

Suggested Planet Jupiter Energy Enhancement Sequential Spray Protocol

Please bear in mind that the following spray sequence to enhance the energy of the planet Jupiter as it experiences the effects of this extended series of occultations by the Moon is merely one person's best effort to comprehend both the occultation phenomenon and how the nine biodynamic preparations might best be employed in bringing about a more positive effect from that event.

As stated previously, my particular choice is to place a heavy emphasis on using BD #506. The December schedule previously provided to at least a few people was intended to lay the groundwork for a possible later application of the Three Kings Preparation in January; I am including the BD #506 in a suggested sequential spray. That December schedule of spray applications will be/was undertaken by JPI using BC (Biodynamic Compound Preparation, also known as Barrel Compost-Thun recipe, or *Fladenpreparat*), BD #500 (horn manure), BD #501 (horn silica), BD #506 (dandelion preparation) and BD #508-fermented (*Equisetum arvense*/horsetail herb) as follows:

- Saturday, December 4 (PM): BC* — with added BD #506
- Sunday, December 5: Avoid spraying because of Mercury at nodal point
- Monday, December 6 (AM): BD #501
- Tuesday, December 7: Contemplative or meditative time to reinforce a positive outcome for our efforts
- Wednesday, December 8 (PM): BD #500*
- Thursday, December 9 (AM): BD #508-fermented with added BD #506

*The Pfeiffer BD Field Spray at the rate of ½ unit for most situations could be substituted for the BC and the BD #500.

Alternative spray dates would be December 2 or 3 before the occultation and December 10 or 11 following the occultation, but avoid the relatively brief “blackout periods” involved on any of those dates.

For those who participated in the Venus Transit spray effort to whatever extent, it can be readily seen that this particular spray schedule is substantially less involved. I would encourage everyone who can possibly do so, to at least consider applying BD #506 on either December 4 or 6 before the occultation and again on either December 8 or 9 after the event. We hope you will join our effort to the greatest extent possible.

If by some chance you receive this information by mid-December, and still wish to apply the Three Kings Prepa-

ration, but need to precede it by applying the nine biodynamic preparations beforehand, the following possible schedule suggests itself:

- Saturday, January 1 (PM): BC* — with added BD #506
- Sunday, January 2 (AM): BD #501
- Monday, January 3: Contemplative or meditative time to reinforce a positive outcome for our efforts
- Tuesday, January 4 (PM): BD #500*
- Wednesday, January 5 (AM): BD #508-fermented with added BD #506

*The Pfeiffer BD Field Spray at the rate of ½ unit for most situations could be substituted for the BC and the BD #500.

Alternative spray dates would be December 30 or 31 before the occultation and January 6 or 7 following the occultation. The so-called “blackout periods” on any of the above dates are to be avoided when planning your spray activities. For those who do not participate in the full spray sequence, please consider applying BD #506 on January 1 or 2 before the occultation event and again on January 4 or 5 afterwards.

While any of the Jupiter occultation dates would be potential candidates for such spray sequences as detailed above for December and January, here at JPI, we will focus particularly on three additional dates, March 26, June 16 and the final date, August 10. Our contemplated schedule is as follows:

- March 24/June 14/August 8 (PM): BC* with added BD #506
- March 25/June 15/August 9 (AM): BD #501
- March 26/June 16/August 10: Contemplative or meditative time to reinforce a positive outcome for our efforts
- March 27/June 17/August 11 (PM): BD #500*
- March 28/June 18/August 12 (AM): BD #508-fermented with added BD #506

*The Pfeiffer BD Field Spray at the rate of ½ unit for most situations could be substituted for the BC and the BD #500.

Alternatively, consider at least applying BD #506 before and after the above dates or *any* Jupiter occultation dates.

Once again, please consider joining in this effort to whatever extent is possible. Although no proof or evidence can be offered to the skeptic, the possible impact can be enormously positive for the Earth through such a cooperative effort.

Securing a Financial Future for the Josephine Porter Institute

Hugh J. Courtney

As long ago as Michaelmas of the year 2000, I have repeatedly raised the question of the need for securing the continuation of the Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Biodynamics as a vehicle for providing the biodynamic practitioner with quality biodynamic preparations as well as conducting education and research in the field of biodynamic agriculture. One result of raising that question was the establishment of a Committee on the Future of the Preparations Work in this country. Although the original purpose of the committee was to include questions on support for the individual preparation maker as well as support for the Josephine Porter Institute, the work of that committee to this date has focused mostly on the question of regionalization. Responsibility for securing the financial future of JPI cannot any longer rely on the potential future efforts of the above committee. The situation now requires that JPI itself take matters in hand to secure its financial future. Inevitably one result is that it now becomes necessary to impose some radical price increases. Additional factors impacting any price changes are detailed in the following paragraphs.

For a number of years, JPI has been the recipient of a funding grant from the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, Inc. From 1992 until 2003 – over a ten year period, that organization provided an annual grant in the amount of \$15,000.00, which allowed JPI to provide members of the BD F & G Association a ten percent discount in recent years. The Biodynamic Association is currently facing a tighter financial outlook; as a result they have temporarily curtailed funding support to all organizations including JPI. In order that the financial impact from the cessation of BDA funding support will be minimal, the

BDA Board of Directors has asked that JPI no longer extend the ten percent discount to BDA members. Therefore, effective immediately, that discount will be suspended.

There are other substantial financial pressures impacting the preparations work here at JPI. For many years, we have offered the preparations at prices significantly below the real cost of production. This is possible only because of the many volunteer hours contributed to the work here, including the fact that no salary has been paid to the Executive Director for some nineteen years. Such subsidization of prices can no longer take place due to the pending retirement of the current Executive Director, and the fact that any replacement is not in a similar position to voluntarily forego a living wage. Beyond the need to properly compensate those working at JPI, the work here is being impacted by the rising costs of fuel and energy. The U. S. Postal Service and other shippers used for delivering the preparations are assessing fuel surcharges and increased postage and shipping charges. Other inflationary pressures familiar to almost everyone are requiring an examination of the price structure of the biodynamic preparations, the Pfeiffer products, Associative Contracts and other goods and services offered by JPI.

For all of the above reasons, a substantial price increase will be reflected in the next edition of our product catalog, which will be effective as of February 1, 2005. We believe the true value of the preparations can scarcely be reduced to monetary terms. However, in order to continue to produce preparations of the highest quality we can manage, and to secure the financial future of the Josephine Porter Institute, the prices of these special substances must be sufficient to begin to cover the actual costs required to produce them.

Prep Makers Conference

The 2005 Biodynamic Preparation Makers Conference, formerly known as The Future of Preparation Making in America, will take place January 14–16 at Rudolf Steiner College in Fair Oaks, California. The theme of the conference is “Digesting Our Mission: Chamomile and the Creation of a Secure Future for the Biodynamic Preparations”. Keynote speaker will be Uli Johannes Koenig, prepa-

rations researcher for the Institute of Biodynamic Research in Darmstadt, Germany. It is requested that those who wish to attend have prior experience with preparation making. Contact Harald Hoven at (916)965-0389, or e-mail Kathryn Casternovia at <elementaldesigns@charter.net> for more information or to obtain an invitation.

Assignment: Developing a Personal Relationship To The Nine Biodynamic Preparations

Hugh J. Courtney

In order to further a personal relationship to the nine biodynamic preparations, the following exercise has been devised so as to experience each preparation individually.

The exercise will involve two separate periods during which the participant will apply each of the preparations individually on the same area of land.

During the twenty-eight days preceding the Spring Equinox (March 20, 2005), that is, from February 20 to March 19, each participant in the exercise is to spray each of the nine biodynamic preparations at least one time. Again, during the twenty-eight days following the Spring Equinox, that is, from March 21 to April 17, the exercise will be repeated with another spraying of each of the preparations.

Each participant is free to choose a particular day to apply any particular preparation. No specific sequence or order is mandated for application of sprays. Each participant is free to apply a preparation at whatever time of day desired. There is no restriction regarding application of more than one preparation during the same day. Stirring time for each preparation shall be up to one hour, but not less than twenty minutes.

The nine preparations to be used are as follows:

- BD #500¹
- BD #501²
- BD #502
- BD #503
- BD #504
- BD #505
- BD #506
- BD #507
- BD #508³

Should any participant be interested in expanding beyond the basic nine preparations indicated above, you are free to do so, since I wished to avoid making the exercise unwieldy at a very busy time of the year by including Biodynamic Compound Preparation (a.k.a. Barrel Compost), "Prepared" 500, or Pfeiffer BD Field Spray. Participants are also free to apply any of the basic nine biodynamic preparations more than once in a twenty-eight day period.

Each participant is asked to keep a log indicating date and time of day each preparation was applied, area to which applied, and weather conditions at the time of application

and again twenty four hours after application. The log should also record any observed effects after applying each preparation to include effects on soil, on plants, and on any animal life, as well as inner effects on the participant him/herself. Failure to observe any changes or effects needs to be recorded as well, and should not be regarded as a personal shortcoming. Any other sense of effect during the entire application should also be recorded whether it is objective or subjective.

The participant is asked to record why a particular date/day or time of day was chosen to apply each particular preparation. There is no right or wrong choice in this regard, as each participant is simply asked to focus on the preparation itself and try to sense when and under what condition it should be applied. Suggested questions to ask oneself are:

- 1) Does this preparation relate more to one day of the week than another?
- 2) Does this preparation relate more to a particular time of day for application?
- 3) Does this preparation relate more to one organ/element of the plant than another (that is, Fruit/Fire; Root/Earth; Flower/Air; or Leaf/Water)?
- 4) Beyond Question 3 above, does this preparation relate more to one or two constellations than to any others?
- 5) Does this particular preparation have a stronger relationship to one particular member of the solar system than to any other?
- 6) How does the stirring of this preparation differ from the stirring of another preparation? (Bare hand stirring is recommended for maximum sensitivity to any differences in stirring the different preparations.)

There should be no sense of failure or shortcoming if the participant fails to have an answer to any of the above questions. However, an excellent extension of this exercise is to continue to "hold the question" as it were until some time in the future you receive what you may recognize as an answer, whether it be days or years later.

Please devise questions of your own beyond those suggested above.

At such time as the exercise is completed, all the participants are asked to share their particular experience of the

exercise with others, so recording your experiences is a very vital part of the exercise. Whether to share experiences with your local biodynamic group or with JPI, the choice is yours. The main objective is to experience the individual preparations for yourself firsthand.

Notes

- 1) (X)500 may be substituted.
- 2) BD #501(5X) or BD #501(F) may be substituted.
- 3) Either fresh or fermented BD #508 may be used.

Please note: Developing a better (more personal) relationship to the preparations is not exactly what most biodynamic practitioners consider first. Getting to know the preparations as individual entities – this is the intended lesson. Yes, it does take time and a lot of effort to complete the above assignment. I kept it simple by using two plots totaling less than 900 square feet. By keeping the application areas small, I only needed a bucket and brush to apply the preparations. I do not want to share too much so as to avoid coloring your experience when you carry out this assignment. But if you do try this exercise, I think you cross a threshold with the preps. You gain a type of freedom using them in different ways and times you did not before. You no longer see them in terms of what they will do for your soils, plants and compost piles; you will perhaps know them as individual entities that contribute their own force to the mix, however subtle or direct that they may be. I hope you will be able to complete this activity. It is well worth the effort.

—Patricia Smith

JPI Seeks Funding

As mentioned in the article on page 5, one of the reasons why there will be a price increase for the preparations is the loss of the yearly grant from the BDA. While we have tried to procure financial support through private individuals and grant organizations that would support the work of the Josephine Porter Institute, we have been unable to secure such funds at the present time. With a limited number of staff here, we do not have a fundraising specialist/grant writer to research these options thoroughly. If you know of an individual or grant organization that would support the work of JPI, please contact us at (276)930-2463 or write to: JPI, P.O. Box 133, Woolwine, VA 24185.

Maria & Matthias Thun

THE BIODYNAMIC SOWING AND PLANTING CALENDAR

2005



Maria Thun Calendar Available

The *Maria Thun Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar* is now available at JPI. The cost is \$11.00 plus postage and handling (\$5.00).

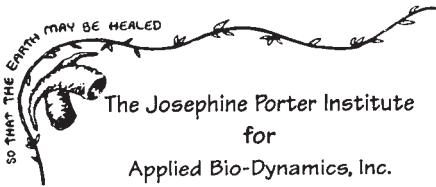
Preparation Making Education Continues At JPI

Our in-house preparation making activities for 2005 will be open to interested biodynamic practitioners. We hope to publish the schedule in the next issue of the newsletter as well as on our website <www.jpibiodynamics.org>.

“The warmth beneath the Earth decidedly contains some inner principle of life. It is alive; moreover in winter it is most of all alive.”

Rudolf Steiner – *Agriculture*, Lecture 2, p. 33

SO THAT THE EARTH MAY BE HEALED



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