

Soil Foodweb Insights

November 2009

Workshops!

There is a time to let Nature take its course, and a time for decisive action. The time to act has arrived.

Move quickly, and you still have a chance to register for our November workshops in Oregon. But spaces are filling up fast. As

always, we must offer the seats on a first-come, first-served basis. And due to fire codes, there is a definite limit to the size of each class.

November 9-13 are the dates to remember for the workshops here

in Corvallis, Oregon. For more information or to register, visit www.soilfoodweb.com/calendar.html or call David at Sustainable Studies Institute: 541-257-2614.

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I. Soil Foodweb Oregon News

A. Autumn testing season continues

As we move through the harvest season in the northern hemisphere, it's time for many of us to think about preparing our soil for the winter. Applying compost and compost tea is often the best way to safely process any litter left behind after harvest. Using that organic material to feed good organisms can prevent it from harboring potential disease organisms.

This is a good time to have your compost tested, and make sure it has that beneficial biology. Fungal biomass is especially important for those in northern

climate zones. Fungi often use the winter months to extend their hyphal networks, building the structure to get your soil ready for the next spring.

To find the Soil Foodweb lab closest to you, www.soilfoodweb.com has a lab locator. For those outside the United States, if your country does not have its own lab, you can always send samples to Soil Foodweb Oregon (www.oregonfoodweb.com). Just make sure you follow all USDA procedures for secure packaging, and include a copy of our Soil Permit, with any samples from outside the mainland United States.

B. Website updates

We are continuing our efforts to make all of our web sites easier to read and simpler to navigate. If you haven't visited recently, take a look! We welcome all suggestions for improvement, or questions about anything that isn't clear. The most recent changes have been made to:

www.soilfoodweb.com
www.oregonfoodweb.com

Of special interest to our friends in Australia:

www.soilfoodweb.com.au

Soil Foodweb Australia's site also has new sections of general information on soil biology, which will be useful to readers everywhere.

C. Woodland Park Zoo: Growing gorgeous roses organically

The Seattle Times recently ran a brief article on the All-American Rose Selections Test Garden at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo. Although Soil Foodweb is not mentioned by name in the article, Woodland Park Zoo makes no secret of the fact they have used our biology testing as part of their landscape management programs. You can read the article here:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/pacificnw/2009328293_pacificplife21.html

D. Seasonal testing special extended

This great deal for our newsletter subscribers is getting one more month of life. If you are sending samples that will reach Soil Foodweb Oregon before the end of November, mention the Insights Newsletter Special on your forms, for a 10% discount on the total cost of your testing. ■

II. Sustainable Studies Institute News

A. Upcoming workshops

Dr. Elaine Ingham continues traveling to teach workshops on behalf of Sustainable Studies Institute. There is still time to register for the following:

California: Oct 30 - Nov 1

When we last heard from them, the workshops near Santa Barbara were very close to filling up, but there may still be one or two spaces left. For more information, visit <http://www.carboneconomysb.com/> or contact Kolmi Majumdar at carboneconomy@quailsprings.org or call 805-886-7239.

Oregon: Nov 9 - 13

Dr. Elaine Ingham will teach the introduction to the Soil Foodweb, and Matt Slaughter, director of Soil

Foodweb Oregon, will teach the Compost & Compost Tea classes. Details on the location will be included in the confirmation letters for those who register. To register, visit:

<http://www.soilfoodweb.com/calendar.html>

You can also register by calling David Kuester at Sustainable Studies Institute: 541-257-2614, or by email: info@sustainablestudies.org

Other Workshops:

Additional workshops and classes are in the process of being schedule for Oregon and other locations. Our main website at www.soilfoodweb.com will be updated to reflect each new workshop as it is finalized.

B. Organic landscape management at Harvard University

We recently received a link to an article on the transition to organic landscape management at Harvard University, with extensive references to the importance of soil organisms in the whole process:

http://www.uos.harvard.edu/fmo/landscape/organiclandscaping/ny_times_the_grass_is_greener.pdf

Another hopeful sign that more and more people are getting the right idea. ■

III. From Earthfort

A. Last chance sale price

At the time of this writing, only a few days remain to get the special newsletter price for Dr. Ingham's audio CD on Plant Production. The unprecedented low price of US\$9.95 lasts until the end of October, after which it will go back to the regular price. Until then, the sale price will apply to any orders placed here:

<http://www.earthfort.com/store/shopexd.asp?id=44>

If ordering by phone, be sure to mention this newsletter item for the reduced price. For telephone orders call 541-257-2612.

B. New product line: Transcripts

To increase the value and usefulness of our audio CD sets, Earthfort is in the process of preparing printed transcripts. The transcript for the Plant Production course is the first to become available. Starting in November, it will be available at its regular price of US\$14.95.

As a special offer for our newsletter subscribers, a copy of the transcript will be included, free of charge, with any Plant Production audio CD purchased at its regular price (after the end of the current sale price), until the end of November, if ordered from the following link:

<http://www.earthfort.com/store/shopexd.asp?id=44>

(Yes, this is the same link used for the previous sale price, but the page will be updated to reflect the new special, after the beginning of November.) ■

From all of our staff, happy sustainable growing! ■ ■ ■