



California ELA Newsletter

October 2005

Our Mission:

“The Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA) advocates for environmentally responsible stewardship of land and natural resources in the landscaping and horticultural practices of professionals and the public.

Through education, collaboration and networking, ELA promotes the design, installation and maintenance of landscapes that are guided by a knowledge of, and respect for, natural ecosystems.”



AACT applied to new whorls of this zucchini plant demonstrates its effectiveness against mildew.

When AACT is applied, it provides beneficial bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes and micro arthropods that benefits the soil, plant root zone, stem and leaf surface.

Protecting the Castle Walls

By Alane O’Rielly Weber

Since Roman times, we have known that there was something good for plants in compost. With the advances of ecology and microbiology, science can now explain those benefits as the interrelated functioning of essential microbiology called the soil food web. As our knowledge of these essential microbes expands with research and field trials, we are able to use it to make biological tools to increase plant health, production, and environmental health as a whole.

Decades of research in this field have been completed by Dr. Elaine Ingham of the Soil Foodweb, Inc. Her literature and world-wide lecturing in the past 15 years has brought a profound understanding of these principles to the farmer, to the horticulturalist and to backyard gardener with her soil food web models and the promotion of actively aerated compost teas (AACT).

Contents

<i>Protecting the Castle Walls by Alane Weber</i>	1-2
<i>Dr. Elaine Ingham Workshop Announcement/Registration Form</i>	3-4
<i>Intelligent Use of Water by Andrew Bolt</i>	5-6
<i>Announcements</i>	7
<i>Sustainable Community Development</i>	8

Protecting the Castle Walls (continued from page 1)

Until recently, the only sure way of getting rid of rust on roses or mildew on grape leaves was repeated applications of fungicides which have cumulative effects on the environment. AACT can be applied to leaf and stem surfaces with the beneficial result of helping to prevent initial infection of surface pathogens. (Note: it will not kill an existing infection.) In foliar trials using AACT, the resulting biological coating is found to be so thick that under magnification, the leaf surface is completely unrecognizable under the "biological castle walls." When there is no unprotected leaf surface available as a site for pathogen entry, there is little chance of the plant being infected.

Consider an often used metaphor of Dr. Ingham's: "The castle walls protect its vulnerable inhabitants from the ravages of invaders." Mother Nature already protects plant surfaces in the wild; however, those defenses are stripped in our urban environments by air pollution, irrigation with water containing soap, salts, fluoride, chlorine, chloramines, pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilizer spray.

The accompanying photograph I took of the zucchini plant illustrates the effectiveness of foliar applications of AACT as a means to replace this natural protective coating of biology. This plant was not initially treated until the two outer whorls of leaves were completely infected with powdery mildew. Overhead irrigation with chloramated water is suspected to have stripped the inherent protective biology which one application of AACT replaced. Repeated applications at two-week intervals kept the newer zucchini leaves free of mildew until the plant was removed at the end of its productive cycle in late October. I have seen many examples of this biological mechanism at work on roses, cucumbers, Nandina, apples and snapdragons.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that we learn from Mother Nature by adopting natural systems. Well-made compost concentrates the soil's beneficial microbes. Compost that is properly aerated in nutrient solution and actively brewed (AACT) makes a living solution that allows one to harness the benefits of compost and focus them as a useful tool to help prevent

disease. In this way, we can promote environmental health as a whole, healing past damage while living in the balance of Nature's wisdom.



Alane O'Rielly Weber
Botanical Art
(650) 348-2094
wormlady@sbcglobal.net

AACT

(Actively Aerated Compost Tea) available in small batches on a weekly basis for pick-up on Fridays only. Brewing is done in accordance with Soil Foodweb, Inc. specifications and is tested quarterly. Price for pick-up is \$8.00/gallon and available in amounts less than 20 gallons. To reserve your spot on "tea day", contact Alane, dba Botanical Art, in advance: (650) 348-2094. Larger amounts also available.
wormlady@sbcglobal.net

Managing the Health and Vitality of Your Landscape Through Soil Ecology



Thursday, January 19, 2006 (overview)
Friday, January 20, 2006
Saturday, January 21, 2006
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
(See reverse side for registration form)

Plants depend on beneficial soil organisms. These organisms protect them from pathogens, help them to obtain nutrients from the soil, break down toxic compounds and build good soil structure. Understanding soil health requires knowing what organisms occur, which ones are working, how many are present and whether they are the right kinds for the desired plants.

In this workshop you will learn how to improve the biology and fertility of your soil naturally, eliminate the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers, save money and the environment.

Dr Ingham is President and Director of Research at Soil Foodweb Inc., a soil testing and consulting lab with worldwide locations. Working on microbial analyses and compost tea at her labs has brought a greater understanding of how to properly manage thermally produced compost, vermicompost, and compost tea.

Dr. Ingham earned her Master of Science in Microbiology in 1977 at Texas A & M University and her doctorate degree from Colorado State University in 1981. Elaine's doctorate is in Microbiology with an emphasis on soil. In 1985, Elaine accepted a Research Associate Fellowship at the University of Georgia and in 1986, she moved to Oregon State University, and joined the faculty in both Forest Science and Botany. Much of Dr. Ingham's published research and links to related information are maintained on her web site: WWW.SOILFOODWEB.COM She is a passionate advocate of organic/sustainable systems and has a dynamic and friendly lecture style.



Dr. Elaine Ingham

Over for registration form

A Workshop on Soil Biology and the Soil Foodweb Registration Form

Registration Form for the Soil Foodweb Workshop

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail address: _____

Preferred method of communication: (please circle one)

e-mail phone fax snail mail

Dates and Cost:

Thursday, January 19, 2006 Introductory Evening, 7:00-9:00PM - \$25.00

Friday, January 20, 2006 full day Soil Foodweb Intensive, 8:00AM-5:00PM - \$100.00

Saturday, January 21, 2006 full day professional focus, 8:00AM-5:00PM - \$100.00

\$180 package includes all 3 lectures or \$100 per day

Early Bird Special: \$130 for all 3 lectures, if postmarked by December 1, 2005

Catered Lunch:

Pre-ordered lunch available each day for \$15.00/meal.

_____ order catered lunch for both days of attendance

_____ order catered lunch for one day only, on _____

_____ I would prefer vegetarian/vegan meal

_____ Total Number of meals ordered

Payment Information:

Subtotal of registration amount: \$ _____

Subtotal of pre-order lunches: \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____



Please make check payable to: Alane Weber or Botanical Art

Mail with registration form to: Terry Lyngso
c/o Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc.
19 Seaport Blvd.
Redwood City, CA 94063

The purpose of this workshop is to provide practical, up-to-date information on managing the health and vitality of turf and landscape systems, farmland, container grown crops and home gardens using the wisdom of natural systems. Dr. Ingham translates two decades of research results into practical, step-by-step information that will increase your ability to garden without chemicals and with great results.

For further information about this seminar, contact Alane Weber by e-mail: wormlady@sbcglobal.net or phone (650)348-2094. Alane is a certified Soil Foodweb Advisor and student of Dr. Ingham.

For additional seminar listings and information on soil biology and ecology, visit www.soilfoodweb.com

Intelligent Use of Water



by Andrew Bolt, Marketing Manager

The
Intelligent
Use of Water™



Water. It's what keeps the world alive. As the world's largest manufacturer of irrigation products, Rain Bird believes it is our responsibility to develop technologies that use water efficiently.

Over the past seven decades, Rain Bird's pioneering efforts have resulted in more than 130 patents. From central control systems and automatic shut off devices to pressure regulating components and low volume drip irrigation, Rain Bird designs products that use water wisely. And their commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for our industry and our communities.

The need to conserve water has never been greater. We want to do even more, and with your help, we can.

Rain Bird IS Series Irrigation Supplement

Rain Bird's IS Series Irrigation supplement is water bound in the form of a solid gel. It is an ideal irrigation supplement for use in establishing native plant material where permanent irrigation is not required as well as new plant material in existing landscapes. Rain Bird IS increases survival rates of transplants by providing continuous moisture needed to reduce the stress of relocation.

Features and Benefits:

- 1 Helps new transplants become established in existing landscapes. Existing vegetation is not subjected to overwatering while trying to establish the new plant, and the new plant has its own additional source of water until it becomes established.
- 2 Disperses water at a consistent rate for up to 90 days (30 days for IS-GP30). Bacteria naturally found in soil gradually break down the food grade ingredients and convert Rain Bird IS back into liquid water at a consistent and steady release rate. The rate at which the product liquefies varies based on several factors, resulting in a usage life that could be shorter than the recommended days.
- 3 Provides moisture around the clock to the root zone. The capillary activity in the soil carries and maintains moisture throughout the root zone for an extended period of time.
- 4 Eliminates evaporation, runoff and leaching.
- 5 Requires little to no maintenance. IS-GP30 is ideal for indoor plants as well as hanging baskets.



Model IS-QT
Supplement

Intelligent Use of Water (continued from page 5)

Models:

IS-QT: Quart container

IS-TG: Tube and Gel Pack

IS-GP: Gel Packs

IS-GP30: 2" 30-day Gel Pack

Take a moment to explore our web site at www.rainbird.com for valuable tips, water conservation resources, product suggestions and educational activities. On Rain Bird's web site, you will also find our white papers, entitled "Irrigation for a Growing World."

This document is an effort to educate readers on the importance of using water efficiently and ways to incorporate these practices into their daily lives.



Andrew Bolt
Rain Bird Inc.
209-404-1746
abolt@rainbird.com



Ron Whitehurst
Marketing Manager
800-248-2847 (BUGS)
Fax 805-643-6267
bugnet@rinconvitova.com

Rincon Vitova Insectaries (RVI) produces and distributes insects and other organisms for biological control of pests of gardens, farms, stables, and compost yards.



Announcements

ELA Newsletter

The California Working Group of the Ecological Landscaping Association presents a bi-monthly newsletter to its members and prospective members. We welcome your comments and inquiries.

Newsletter layout and edited by: Nancy Ramie
Editorial Staff: Golden Love, Roxanne Evans and Susan Wyche.
Staff Writers: Alane Weber, Frank Niccoli, Ron Whitehurst.

Gardens Sought for Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Gardens are being sought to participate in the Sunday, May 7, 2006 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will showcase bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving gardens that contain 30% or more California native plants. Gardens must be located in Alameda or Contra Costa counties. To receive an application or to be added to the mailing list, visit the website at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net, email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558

Calling all ecological landscape designers and home owners:

The Going Native Garden Tour is seeking home gardens located in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for next year's tour scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 2006. Gardens should incorporate California native plants in a prominent manner (suggested native content: 50% or better). Gardens should promote the goals of beauty, sustainability, habitat creation, water conservation, and reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides. Enthusiastic, knowledgeable designers/home owners must be available to docent the garden on tour day. To submit your garden, please email gardens@goingnativegardentour.com

Place your ad in our newsletter!

Our California e-newsletter reaches an audience of over 300 horticultural enthusiasts! To place an ad, contact the CA e-newsletter Editor:

Nancy Ramie
nramie@hotmail.com
Business Card Size Ads
to full page ads, \$25 and up per issue

Assistance Needed

ELA National webmaster needs volunteer assistance with setting up the California page of the national website. Responsible for uploading the ELA-CA newsletter, to the secured ELA website. Approximately 20-30 minutes per month. Contact the webmaster: Kathy Sargent-O'Neill at : ELAwebmaster@adelphia.net

SDE Wants to Heal the Gulf

We have all been shocked and saddened at the disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina and Rita over a month ago. In addition to the tragedy of lost lives and destroyed communities, there is also widespread environmental destruction and pollution.

The toxicity in the environment was caused by water mixing with toxic chemicals, oil spills, destroyed sewage plants, dead animals and the list goes on. This situation is not only a current health hazard to the survivors and relief workers, it is also a long-term hazard for disease control, destroyed fishery industries, and environmental devastation.

Sustainable Community Development (SCD) from Kansas City, Mo, is mobilizing a disaster relief team to go to the gulf region with a mobile production unit that will begin on-site production of 20,000 gallons of beneficial microbes per week. This can be used to treat approximately 300,000,000 gallons of toxic water per week.

“Beneficial and effective microorganisms (“EM”) technology is one of the key tools needed to begin to detoxify the region.,” says Matthew Wood, Founder and Managing Partner of SCD. “I have been working with EM technology for almost 10 years on environmental pollution remediation projects all over the world. I have seen no other technology that is so effective, has no side effects, and is very low cost relative to the benefits gained.”

This is the largest ever deployment of EM technology in North America. As a small company, SCD cannot absorb all of the costs for deployment. They urgently need your help to fund this effort. Please visit the web site or call their offices at 888-438-8395 to make a donation. They need to raise \$180,000 immediately for deployment, then \$270,000 on-going per month to make a major impact.

INTERNET: www.EMDisasterRelief.net - Visit the website regularly to learn more about how EM works and how it is used as a tool for the disaster relief effort. Get daily updates about where the MPU is deployed, where EM is being applied, who is partnering in the effort and results of applications.