

DIY SBB – GARDENS Starter & Application Factsheet

Starter Preparation

DRAFT 29 Nov 22

Step A – Collect local soil biology

- Collect 300g of local soil from creek, fence-line, under mulch - away from chemicals
Use the active layer of soil -1 or 2cm at the soil/mulch interface - from different places
- Mix thoroughly
- Store in cool moist area - not too wet or too dry

Step B -- Mix the growing medium

- 3 L worm casts
- 1 L Mill Run (bran and pollard. Available from Produce Agencies in large bags)
- 300 ml of the local soil
- 50 ml molasses (or 50 g sugar)



- Mix well when dry
- Add water till just able to squeeze a drop of water, not wetter

Place the mix 8 – 10 cm deep on a tray with a bottom that allows draining such as a cardboard box, or directly on soil. Cover with cloth and keep the cloth damp

- It is essential to allow free drainage
- The mix must feel warm - between 8 and 24 hours after adding water
- If it is compacted too dense or is too wet, it may be lacking air and some parts will not develop fungi and will smell

Step C -- Wait

- Allow to grow 24 – 96 hours in a dark humid place
- It is ready when fungi cover the growing medium and, when broken apart, the fungi are visible throughout the medium
- It remains suitable for use for several days



Two days after starting



Close-up

Application of Starter

Place the mature grey starter in 10 litres of water

Break the Starter with your hands and mix for 10 minutes

Apply to 5 – 10 square metres using a watering can

Additional water may now be added to ensure the mix is washed into the soil

Avoid sunlight, and avoid standing in water for over 2 hours

This Starter may be further multiplied using aerated brewing (and biology foods) and applied to 400 square metres – see DIY SBB - Gardens Brewing & Application Factsheet



Further DIY Soil Biology Booster Factsheets may be found at:

<https://www.gladstoneconservationcouncil.com.au/gcc-campaigns/regenerative-agriculture/>

For further information and advice, contact Trevor Galletly and Peter van Beek