Soil Health in Practice

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Greenbelt Microgreens
Natural Disease Suppression – with Compost

• Start with compost-based growing mix
• Add foods for beneficial microbes & organic fertilizers
• Fill peat-based growing containers
• Let beneficials control pathogens
Niagara Vineyard & Orchard
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Arnie Lepp – Niagara Pest Monitoring Club

Maria Derkacz – research on pesticide strips
What is compost tea

• Beneficial microbes extracted from compost or vermicompost
• Brewed in non-chlorinated water with specific microbe foods for about 48 hours
• Applied as a probiotic to leaves of grape vines
• Applied at levels heavy enough to also provide a soil drench
How does it work?

• Beneficials out-compete disease organisms if leaf coverage is adequate and repeated regularly
• Soil drench replenishes microbial life
• Can also be used to push balance of microbes towards either bacterial or fungal dominance
Another Example: Harvard Yard
A Unique Approach to Farming

- 80 acres, 5 of them inside the Town of Inglewood, in Caledon
- Mixed operation: vegetables, hay, forest products, meeting space, camping grounds, etc.
- Practice all of the soil-health principles, and then some
- Make their own compost and inoculate with microbes from most productive parts of farm
Getting to the Root Zone
No-Till Potatoes (an opportunity for compost?)
SOIL HEALTH IN THE GREENBELT

Possibility grows here.

Report at www.greenbelt.ca/greenbelt_farmers

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