
clover how to grow Organic question

Posted by Michael Saunby - 2010/02/09 01:28

I object strongly to your inference that people should not be fed or that population should be forcibly controlled somehow. If that's how you read it; whatever. The reality is that for many in the world this is indeed the case, e.g. the fifth of the world's population that are Chinese. What makes us so special that we have the right to feed our population with other people's food? I know, we (think we) are wealthier than them. Ok, let's try it, and see what happens.

Michael Saunby

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

You don't hold with maximum sustainability? I am not sure what you mean by this but I probably do. I suspect we would disagree about achieving it though.

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

What you said about rock phosphate earlier is interesting - especially as you say you have researched the matter thoroughly. The soil here is naturally acid and target PH is much lower than yours, so I am unable to comment at the moment. The practical difference between organic allowed rock phosphate and not allowed P2O5 is its solubility in water or soil acid. Interesting that you attribute not sustainable to the former use of rock phosphate and not the latter. Perhaps this indicates a degree of prejudice? Once more, the theory is that root and microbe activity produce acids and make it available as required = less leaching, less pollution. I was doubtful about that at first, but it seem to work well here. If you have killed off your soil microbes, then perhaps this would not work for you.

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

state. Bagged fertilisers have, over the last 40 or so years, built up the stock of fertility in most of the UK farmlands. Organic farming depletes the soil of nutrients. Which nutrients? The same nutrients that a conventionally grown plant takes with it. I am beginning to despair of your intelligence. So your soil has a reserve of Nitrogen? Please tell me what form it is in.

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Posted by Huw - 2010/02/09 01:28

with their land? Wait for the locusts my friend. Strategic food stocks are at a very low point. Huw

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Posted by Huw - 2010/02/09 01:28

begining to despair of your intelligence. So your soil has a reserve of Nitrogen? Please tell me what form it is in. The same form as organic N. Huw

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clover how to grow Organic question

Posted by Huw - 2010/02/09 01:28

killed off your soil microbes, then perhaps this would not work for you. LOL. Huw

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

poor soils would need to be in a rotation in an organic system. No. It could well be managed by stocking at an appropriate density. How do you sensibly control weeds and maintain a useful clover level, to name but two? Grazing controls weeds -especially with sheep. Topping can be a backup. Clover thrives without added Nitrogen (-once established) as long as it is grazed periodically and not continually.

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

I live and work in the world as it is, not in some non existant Eutopia. If humanity breeds beyond the capacity to feed it by any means, then so be it. It will self correct as with any other natural system. Limiting the capacity to produce food for some idiological reason, whose mathematics do not add up, seems highly irresponsible if not criminal. What about limiting fishing to preserve stocks?

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Posted by Oz - 2010/02/09 01:28

I don't have a solution. Perhaps a water free disposal system and an end to mixing nutrients with pollutants would be worth thinking about. Generally nutrients ARE pollutants.

clover how to grow Organic question

Posted by Jim Webster - 2010/02/09 01:28

Oz <O...@upthorpe.demon.co.uk wrote in message swroot writes I used 'more potential' because it depends on the cropping. Grassland on poor soils would need to be in a rotation in an organic system. No. It could well be managed by stocking at an appropriate density. How do you sensibly control weeds and maintain a useful clover level, to name but two? Grazing controls weeds -especially with sheep. Topping can be a backup. Clover thrives without added Nitrogen (-once established) as long as it is grazed periodically and not continually. and is very slow getting started in spring which means we get an extra months winter without AN Jim Webster Reality Facilitator - Hide quoted text -- Show quoted text -

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Posted by Jim Webster - 2010/02/09 01:28

Sub optimal for what? For massive yields perhaps, but not sup optimal for good yields. please define the difference between massive yields and good yields, for wheat, in tonnes per acre Jim Webster Reality Facilitator

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

be deposited on someone else's land. The main difference is that burning destroys the organic matter so it does not go towards balancing that taken out by cultivations. And of course the energy goes into heating the atmosphere instead of being slowly available to microbes. Farmers don't like incorporating straw as it is low in Nitrogen and initially actually uses up soil N.

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Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

boring.

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Posted by Andrew Heggie - 2010/02/09 01:28

I tend to the belief that energy, except nuclear power, comes from the sun, and certainly animal shit isn't a very efficient storage medium, though dried it does burn well enough to cook with. I suppose there is a possibility that fusion products came from another sun, otherwise even our nuclear power plant's fuel came from the sun. AJH

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Posted by Elaine Jones - 2010/02/09 01:28

Do you eat unrinsed dishes? Never. a) I can't stand the taste of washing up liquid in my coffee (no milk no sugar) b) they airdry better (teatowels spread bacteria)

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Posted by Gerald L R Stubbs - 2010/02/09 01:28

Everything is finite, and to pretend that a certain 'theological' form of agriculture is not, is to be an ostrich. In order to grow plants properly they must use part of a finite resource. The only way round this problem is for consumers of food to piss and shit on the land that the food came from, and subsequently, when they die, to get mulched into that land. As this is both stupid and impractical, all forms of agriculture will continue to utilise finite resources of fertility: including so called 'organic'. Why do you think I disagree with this? I apologise if I have misunderstood you. Most advocates of organic systems believe that they are sustainable, and that there is no need to import fertility. Those people who know that one must import fertility, say that the practice is fine, so long as the bought-in fertility is organic in provenance. OK, so I buy-in dung from an organic farmer. He is selling me stuff that he properly should be putting back on his land. So where is he going to get his replacement fertility from? Calcified seaweed? Fine. So long as there are only a few farmers who wish to buy it. Multiply the buyers from the present level times ten and they will not all get supplied. What then? All the best,

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Posted by Gerald L R Stubbs - 2010/02/09 01:28

Have you or have you not, heard of any UK derogations? Yes, I have. The answer you had from the SA was an answer that was for the consumption of an enquirer. The SA are not going to reveal to a casual enquirer the extent of derogations that they may permit, as, you may imagine, it would rather undermine their stance. Imagine you have forty acres of Savoy cabbages, and you spot a mealy aphid infestation in its early stages. The cabbages are the best part of your year's income. The aphids must be knocked on the head immediately or they will reproduce in your cabbages at a rate that will astound you, and further, they will take out the growing tip of the cabbages, and metaphorically 'melt them'. Well, not metaphorically, that was the wrong term, they will actually melt your cabbages so that you have nothing to sell. Soapy water, I can assure you, will not do the trick. I think that mealy aphids actually

thrive on that. The cure is one application of 'Aphox' as soon as you notice the onset of the problem. Not a prophylactic spray, but a curative one. You may lose 5% of your cabbages, but not 100%. So you are an organic farmer, you have noticed the aphids and know the economic consequences of not dealing with them immediately, and you phone the SA to tell them of the problem and ask them what is possible under their rules. Are they going to tell you to watch your crop getting destroyed? Ask yourself! They are promoters of organic produce. They do not want disgruntled bankrupts. After they have given you a derogation to spray Aphox, are they going to admit to that, given their precepts? Are you, as a producer, going to admit to it, given that your customers believe that your produce has never had any sort of unapproved spray directed on it? If you are going to tell me that anyone who is growing 40 acres of cabbages should be growing a smaller acreage, and be growing a diverse selection of crops to minimise the effects of pests, then you are also telling me that organic agriculture is only, at best, a local and not a mass producer of food for the populace. Ok for gardeners and smallholders, but not for mass-producers of food-stuffs. There are just too many folk to feed, most of whom live in conurbations. All the best,

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Posted by Gerald L R Stubbs - 2010/02/09 01:28

There is to my mind little point in breeding more and more people with little other purpose than have them sit on their arses watching TV, eating and breeding more of the same, I find this suggestive of an uncomfortable political and ethical viewpoint. Oz This greatest problem that faces hom. sap. is one of overpopulation. We have evolved, in the space of only a few thousands of years from the small beginnings of a nomadic animal, almost indistinguishable from modern man, to the incredibly complex and crowded social structures within which we all live, urban and rural dwellers alike. There are few humans who have retained their original, nomadic existence. South African Bushmen, some Australian Aboriginals, and a small percentage of Eskimaux. Unless world populations of humans are at the very least stabilised, but preferably reduced, we are without doubt, to my mind, sowing the seeds of our own extinction. We live in a society where, as Michael points out, many of us take passive, non-interactive, leisure time, to the detriment of our well-being. We do this because we are now deprived of the sort of stimuli that our forbearers experienced in the real world of existence and keeping alive. We no longer belong to small groups but to massive political groupings which are alien to our nature. Our original instincts, which are still with us, are satisfied by all sorts of strange means in the contemporary world, one of which is passively watching the television! I don't see anything wrong with Michael's comments.

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Posted by Gerald L R Stubbs - 2010/02/09 01:28

Huw <huw.williamsnos...@farmline.com wrote in message I object strongly to your inference that people should not be fed or that population should be forcibly controlled somehow. If that's how you read it; whatever. The reality is that for many in the world this is indeed the case, e.g. the fifth of the world's population that are Chinese. What makes us so special that we have the right to feed our population with other people's food? I know, we (think we) are wealthier than them. Ok, let's try it, and see what happens. Michael I think that you should both take the global, factual view, rather than the global, political view. We are overpopulated on this planet with the species hom. sap.. I am afraid that there is no getting away from this fact.

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Posted by Steve Rawlings - 2010/02/09 01:28

I don't have a solution. Perhaps a water free disposal system and an end to mixing nutrients with pollutants would be worth thinking about. I have a vision..... Composting toilets in every house. Steve Rawlings www.dexterbeef.co.uk

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Posted by Michael Saunby - 2010/02/09 01:28

and initially acutally uses up soil N. Respiration, by microbes, also destroys the organic matter, the only difference is

that it's slower and in the meantime some microbes get to have a party. In the end it's thermodynamics and heat is the only output. Anyway, as I said, this has nothing to do with why stubble isn't burnt. Michael Saunby

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Posted by Michael Saunby - 2010/02/09 01:28

I apologise if I have misunderstood you. Most advocates of organic systems believe that they are sustainable, and that there is no need to import fertility. I guess they look to other times and other countries. Go to China and you'll find that all latrines are emptied onto the fields even today, but they've been at this game for millennia and I guess, most of the time, they know what they're doing. Michael Saunby

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clover how to grow Organic question

Posted by Michael Saunby - 2010/02/09 01:28

Siriusgrunch...@crosswinds.netREMOVETue, 19 Jun 2001 17:42:52 +0100<8%MX6.2109\$6q2.242...@news6-win.server.ntlworld.com I don't have a solution. Perhaps a water free disposal system and an end to mixing nutrients with pollutants would be worth thinking about. I have a vision..... Composting toilets in every house. Wasn't that Finland's millenium project ? I guess they couldn't see the value of a dome . Michael Saunby

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clover how to grow Organic question

Posted by Sirius - 2010/02/09 01:28

If you are going to tell me that anyone who is growing 40 acres of cabbages should be growing a smaller acreage, and be growing a diverse selection of crops to minimise the effects of pests, then you are also telling me that organic agriculture is only, at best, a local and not a mass producer of food for the populace. Ok for gardners and smallholders, but not for mass-producers of food-stuffs. There are just too many folk to feed, most of whom live in conurbations. I do not have the knowledge to comment on organic cabbage production. I see that they are available at reasonable price and quality in the supermarkets. Are you telling me they cannot be grown organically in large quantities without cheating? Even if derogations were allowed (and I am sceptical about this), do deviations ever occur in conventionally produced crops? I mean like farmers not sticking to the permitted products or permitted uses etc? The answer is Yes they do, and I suspect this is especially true of the countries you are talking about, so, Organic even with your claimed derogations, would still be a step safer at least as far as synthetic chemicals go.

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