

Agenda for the day

Monday, 24. February 2014

Field lab (free)

10am **Welcome and Introduction** to the trial

11am - 1pm **Visit to the site**
Discussion of our approach and experimental design, and how such comparisons can be repeated in a cheap and easy way with your own material.

(Identification of potential sites who would like to run a parallel comparison trial with own substrates.)

Paid workshop (£ 25)

1pm **Hearty organic lunch**
with time to chat amongst yourselves about all things organic.

2pm **Compost workshop**
These two and a half hours will be spent within a workshop environment; looking at the possibility of producing your own substrate compost using locally available materials.

4.30pm **End** of the workshop

Book your place now!

Please contact Astrid Toner :
Email: AToner@soilassociation.org
Or phone: 0117 314 5100

The field lab in the morning is free, lunch and compost workshop in the afternoon: £25

How to get there:

Location address:
West Lodge, Hardwick
Whitchurch on Thames
Pangbourne
RG8 7RA

Funded by the Duchy Originals
Future Farming Programme



Tolhurst Organic



Produce your own compost!

Field lab and workshop on peat-free propagation materials

with Iain Tolhurst

at Hardwick Gardens,
South Oxfordshire
Monday 24th February 2014



Aims of this field lab

This field lab will examine the use of compost, and in particular woodchip compost, as a component in peat-free propagation materials in horticulture and evaluate its performance with regards to other materials.

We will compare the growth, health and yield of two crops:

- ❖ leek
- ❖ brussels sprouts

grown in:

- ❖ woodchip substrate compost
- ❖ peat-type compost
- ❖ biochar compost

The trial will be fully replicated with controls and is monitored from sowing date to final harvest.

Follow-up meetings

This first field lab and compost-making workshop, will be followed up by two field labs during the growing season:

2nd meeting: Monday 7th April

Discussion of the first results: Assessing the effects of the different propagation materials on the development and performance of the tested transplants. Review of plans, ideas for additional research. Visit to the site.

3rd meeting: Monday 22nd September

Discussion of the final results: Assessing the performance (health, yield etc.) of the crops in the field, exploring the 'long-term' effects of the different propagation materials. Review of plans and experiences of delegates. Review from Iain Tolhurst of the trial and expected outcomes. Visit to the site.

Join in and share!

Get involved!

We invite you to join this series of field labs and **set up your own** small trial, either by making your own compost, or testing different propagation materials suitable for your specific needs!

Experiences will be shared, discussed and analysed in the field lab group, where you can profit from various opinions, input and feedback to evaluate your methods.

Tolly is convinced: **“Delegates will learn a great deal and get the opportunity to share experiences and queries with each other. This is an opportunity for all growers who wish to make their systems more resilient and self-sufficient.”**