Being Green and in the Black
Border Landcare Organic Group
Fact Sheet 4

What is this fact sheet about?
A key feature of Biological Farming principles is the underlying view of the soil as a living system, which the farmer, in harmony with nature, should seek to develop. We all know that the info is out there, but finding it is not always easy. Hopefully, this fact sheet will help you find some of the information to assist. Note that comments and selections are the opinion of the editors and are not endorsements or recommendations.

Books
This list is limited.
Online bookstores are good. As are libraries.
Some websites allow the download of books as pdf files.
The Accredited Landcare Group has several books available.
“Managing Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies”
“Building Soils for Better Crops, 2nd edition”
“Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition”

Soil and Health has an Online Library for downloading books on Agriculture as PDF.
(www.soilandhealth.org)

Journals and Publications
Across Australia The national newspaper of sustainable agriculture; infrequent but excellent. Back copies are available. Visit the comprehensive online bookstore.
Each of the accredited Landcare groups has their own journal, which can be subscribed to, but also they have free e-zines available to all.
Farm Online is the stop for all Rural Press publications including Australian Landcare Magazine.
(www.farmonline.com.au)

US sites:
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (www.sare.org)
The database Agricola (abstracts/citations only. (agricola.nal.usda.gov)/SARE has a great site for info particularly Power crops and a good newsletter. (http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/newsletter/newsletters.htm)

Altra National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service [www.altra.org]
Midwestern Bio Ag is a premier site for Biological farming. See the “Biological Farming” link, for the six rules, Q & A etc. (www.midwesternbioag.com)

Research and Information
The state Departments of Primary Industries are a good place to start; Agnotes, Fact Sheets etc.
DPI’s have a library and a bookshop. They also have journals or can access them from other offices.
Australia (http://www.nrdc.qv.gov.au/agnotes)
Victoria (www.dpi.vic.gov.au/about)
QLD has Organic News available at www.qdip.qv.gov.au/organics
Land and Water Australia (research areas on right sidebar), possibly the premier research body in Australia. See the Publications and Tools page and the Healthy Soils Project and symposium.
AANRO Australian Data base (www.aanro.net)
Soil Food Web click on the “Understanding the Soil Food Web” button
Ausveg (www.ausveg.com.au) have a look at their “Ezine” program.
The Healthy Soils Live Guide is available at healthysolis.arris.net.au
IAL Horticulture Australia www.horticulture.com.au
AgriSolutions have an informative site, with a “ezine” and fact sheets www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au
Growcom (www.growcom.com.au) has a collection of fact sheets dealing with Farm Management. These Fact sheets have good references to follow up.

Landcare
Landcare Australia www.landcareonline.com
This site has links to all Landcare groups
(Landcare partners/govt partners) and Landcare groups (community care groups)

Fact Sheet 4
Contacts, Links and Information
Other Fact Sheets in this series:
1 - Soil and Water Management
2 - Inputs
3 - Plant Protection
4 - Contacts, Links etc
5 - Conversion to Organics

Sustainable / Organic / Biological?
What does it mean... go to http://www.sare.org/design.html or http://www.attra.ncat.org/EndoMeter.html
One thing they all have in common is the similar approach to soil management. But remember when searching sites that you may need to use all three!!

Interesting fact
In 2001, farmers managed farmland which covered 62% of Australia’s land mass. Also 91% of farmers were members of a family, and the total no of farming families was 112,753. (Source: ABS “Australian Farming In Brief: 2001)

Search Tip
A Google search of Biological Farming netted 21,900 results ... in Australia! But putting it in inverted commas “Biological Farming” reduced this to 1,310.

Remember..
Most websites have a “links” page, and are usually worth having a look at. For example, “The Organic Centre” (www.organic-center.org) has Science Resources from across the world.

If you view this online, you can use the hotlinks embedded in the highlighted text and go directly to the page.

Subscribing to e-zines is easy. But first you need the link to their websites. This fact sheet has contact details for many organizations. But there are other ways... eg this site. Savvy Frog www.savvyrfrog.com/Science/Agriculture/Farming_Practices_and_Systems has some to start with.

The Worldwide Soil Health Information Portal has links to audio visuals (watch slideshows on line etc) databases, search engines and more. (mulch.mannlib.cornell.edu)
Ezines or email newsletters

Most of the certifying bodies, regional natural resource management groups (eg CMA’s etc), distributors and manufacturers of biological products will have an ezine service. Go to the site and follow the links.

In this list, the organisation name has a link to the newsletter “sign on” page. Most are archived, so you can look at back copies first.

Here are some which we think may be useful:

**Soil Food Web** *(www.soilfoodweb.com.au)* has archived newsletters. The September 2007 issue has a several links to US compilation sites. Internet sources, data bases and research journals. This organisation specialises in the science of compost and the study of microbiology.

**From the Soil Up** *(www.fromthesoilup.com.au)* "a website dedicated to the open dissemination of knowledge. Contains info from a wide range of sources, scientific, commercial, anecdotal and live, all pulled together using a good dose of logical reasoning and common sense."

**Organic Advantage** published by the BFA has less of the agriculture and more of anecdotal and live, all pulled together using a good dose of logical reasoning and common sense.

**The Soil Health** *(www.soilhealth.com)* site is now defunct, but the archived newsletters are still there. This great site, initially funded by the Potter Foundation, is focused on the biological process in the soil. Easy to use and heaps of info. For example, we know what the rhizosphere is but what is the rhizoplane. Go to Roots and find out.

Organic Certification Bodies:

- **Aus Qual**
  - Post Office
  - Phone: 07 3350 5716
  - Fax: 07 3350 5996
  - Email: ausqual@ausqual.com.au
  - Web: www.ausqual.com.au

- **Australian Certified Organic (ACO)**
  - PO Box 530
  - CHERMISE QLD 4032
  - Phone: 07 3350 5716
  - Fax: 07 3350 5996
  - Email: info@auscert.org.au
  - Web: www.auscert.org.au

**BioDynamic Research Institute**
- Post Office
- PO Box 76
- SPRING HILL QLD 4004
- Phone: 07 4637 2600
- Fax: 07 4696 7689
- Email: ofc@organicfoodchain.com.au
- Web: www.organicfoodchain.com.au

**Safe Food Production Qld**
- PO Box 440
- SPRING HILL QLD 4004
- Phone: 07 3253 9800
- Fax: 07 3253 9824
- Email: infosafeprod@bigfoot.com.au
- Web: www.safefood.qld.gov.au

**Tasmanian Organic-Dynamic Producers**
- PO Box 434
- MOWBRAY HEIGHTS TAS 7248
- Phone: 03 6363 5162
- Fax: 03 6363 5162
- Email: tas_organicdynamic@yahoo.com

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