Registration Brochure

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

ORGANIC MATTER MANAGEMENT & COMPOST USE

IN HORTICULTURE

4-7 APRIL 2011
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
AUSTRALIA

INVITATION

It is my honour and priveledge to invite you to the International Symposium on Organic Matter Management and Compost Use in Horticulture, which will take place at the University of Adelaide (Australia) between 4th and 7th April 2011.

This International Scientific Symposium in Adelaide aims to follow in the footsteps of and build upon previous successful Symposia, such as the 1998 International Symposium on Composting & Use of Composted Material in Horticulture, the 1992 & 2002 International Composting Research Symposia and the 2005 & 2007 International Symposia on Growing Media. As the title suggests, the International Symposium on Organic Matter Management and Compost Use in Horticulture is broad in its approach, and will present, discuss and explore options of using compost and other organic soil amendments (e.g. animal and green manures, biochar, food and fibre processing residues) for managing & improving horticultural soils and production systems, including field and protected cropping, tree & vine crops, amenity horticulture, nurseries, growing media, etc.

Soil organic matter is vitally important for sustaining long-term soil fertility and productivity, and indeed, for ensuring the viability of future food production. Ambitious goals such as a 50% increase in productivity combined with a 50% reduction of net carbon emissions per unit food / fibre produced within the next 20 years (Australia's CSIRO Flagship Sustainable Agriculture) can be achieved only with proper management of soil organic matter. Strategies for the proper management of soil organic matter have to be devised and tested for many different cropping systems, soil types and environments, and they also have to be integrated into existing farming enterprises. Furthermore, means and ways have to be found for maximising agronomic, economic, and environmental benefits from optimum soil organic matter levels. Other horticultural sectors such as amenity horticulture and the nursery industry are equally dependent on the proper management of organic residues and organic matter, i.e. the production and use of high quality and fit-for-purpose growing media, soil blends, mulches, etc.

All of these aspects and many more will be addressed by the International Sumposium on Organic Matter Management and Compost Use in Horticulture. You are cordially invited to participate in and contribute to this International Scientific Symposium that will focus on;

- Characterization and production of fit-for-purpose organic soil amendments and growing media,
- Potential uses for compost products as horticultural soil amendments, mulch, or component in growing media,
- Managing organic matter in conventional, integrated and organic horticultural production systems,
- Identifying and quantifying the agronomic, environmental and societal benefits of using composted and un-composted organic soil amendments and mulches,
- The economics of managing organic matter,
- Translating R&D outcomes into farm practices.

All Horticulture Sectors will be addressed and represented, including;

- Vegetable Production
- Fruit & Berry Growing
- Amenity Horticulture
- Landscaping & Land Rehabilitation
- Turf Production & Turf Maintenance
- Production & Use of Blended Soils,
- Protected Cropping
- Potting & Container Media
- Production & Use of Blended Soils
- Viticulture
- Flower Production
- Tree Cropping

Mr Johannes Biala
Convenor

SYMPOSIUM PARTNERS

This is a Symposium of the **International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)** which is the world's leading independent organisation of horticultural scientists with more than 7,000 members in some 150 countries.
The following ISHS Commissions and Working Groups support and sponsor the Symposium:

- Commission - Sustainability through Integrated and Organic Horticulture
- Commission - Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture
- Working Group - Composts in Growing Media
- Working Group - Composting for Horticultural Applications

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is a not-for-profit, industry-owned company. It works in partnership with Australia's horticulture industries to invest in research, development and marketing programs that provide benefit to industry and the wider community. HAL invests almost $90 million annually in programs designed to align with the strategic investment priorities of Australia's horticulture industries and the Australian Government's Rural Research and Development priorities.

Zero Waste SA is a South Australian state government organisation which enables people to improve their recycling and waste avoidance practices, whether at home, at work or in industry. Through collaboration, advocacy, financial incentives and education, Zero Waste SA is working towards meeting the target to 'reduce waste by 25% by 2014'.

The Symposium is supported by

- Department of Primary Industries Victoria
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
- Peats Soil & Garden Supplies, Adelaide
- BiobiN Industries, Adelaide
- Agricultural Departments of Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia
- AUSVEG, Melbourne
- Compost Australia
- Australian Society for Horticultural Science
- Organic Federation of Australia
- European Compost Network
- Composting Council of Canada
- BioCycle Magazine, USA

Organising Committee

Johannes Biala, The Organic Force, Wynnum, QLD (Chair)
Mark Boersma, ASHS and Tas Inst of Ag Research, Burnie, TAS
Angus Campbell, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Yin Chan, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW
Peter Crisp, South Aust Research and Development Institute, Adelaide, SA
Stephen Harper, Qld Primary Industries and Fisheries, Gatton, QLD
Jason Huggins, AUSVEG, Glen Iris, VIC
Andre Leu, Organic Federation of Australia, Bellingen, NSW
Steven Marshall, State Member of Parliament for Norwood, SA
Bob Paulin, Dept of Agriculture and Food, Perth, WA
Peter Slavich, NSW Industry & Investment - Primary Industries, Wollongbar, NSW
Peter Wadewitz, Compost Australia, Sydney, NSW
Kevin Wilkinson, Dept of Primary Industries Victoria, Melbourne, VIC

International Scientific Committee

Joint Chair:
Robert Prange,
Agriculture and Agri-Food, Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, Canada
Michael Raviv,
Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, Newe Ya'ar Research Center, Ramat Yishay, Israel
Members:
Lyn Abbott,
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Scieces, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Cecilia Céspedes L.,
Departamento de Producción Vegetal, Instituto de Investigacione Agropecuarias, Chillán, Chile
Li Ji,
Dept of Ecology and Ecological Engineering, China Agriucltural Univeristy, Beijing, China
Patricia Millner,
USDA-ARS Environmental Microbial and Food Safety Laboratory,
Beltsville Agricultural Research Centre, USA
Gordon W. Price,
Dept of Engineering, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, Canada
Peter Stoffella,
Dept of Horticultural Sciences, University of Florida, Fort Pierce, USA
Peter von Fragstein und Niemsdorff,
Dept of Organic Vegetable Production, University of Kassel, Witzenhausen, Germany
Michelle Wander,
Dept of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, USA
Jaw-Fen Wang,
AVRDC - The World Vegetable Centre, Tainan, Taiwan
Kevin Wilkinson,
Dept of Primary Industries Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Secretariat

sapro CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

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HOST CITY AND VENUE

Adelaide
Adelaide is the capital and most populous city of the State of South Australia, and with a population of about 1.1 million is the fifth-largest city in Australia. Adelaide is a coastal city situated on the Adelaide Plains, between Gulf St Vincent and the low-lying Mount Lofty Ranges. As South Australia's seat of government and commercial centre, Adelaide is the site of many governmental and financial institutions. Most of these are concentrated in the city centre along the cultural boulevard of North Terrace, King William Street and in various districts of the metropolitan area. Today, Adelaide is noted for its many festivals and sporting events, its food, wine and culture, its long beachfronts, and its large defence and manufacturing sectors. It continues to rank highly as a livable city, being in the Top 10 in The Economist's World's Most Livable Cities index.

Adelaide has a hot-summer Mediterranean climate with a semi-arid climate influence, where most of the rain falls in the winter months. The average temperature during autumn (March – May) when the Symposium takes place ranges from 13°C to 23°C.

Venue

The National Wine Centre of Australia, which is part of the University of Adelaide, is an architectural treat but what it holds inside is the real attraction. Situated on the edge of the CBD and Adelaide's stunning Botanic Gardens it is a combination of eye-catching architecture and smooth functionality. The Centre provides a superb alternative to a standard venue for any event and is an exciting tourism venue which showcases the entire Australian Wine Industry. The National Wine Centre offers venues with natural lighting and spectacular architecture. The complex also features outdoor terrace areas with views of the Centre's vineyard and Botanic Gardens.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The following internationally reknown scientists, which are unrivalled experts in their field, have committed to delivering keynote addresses and being available for consultation throughout the Symposium:

Prof Dr Rattan Lal,
School of Environment and
Natural Resources,
Ohio State University, USA

Prof Dr Peter Stoffella,
Dept of Horticultural Sciences,
University of Florida, USA

Assoc Prof Dr David Crohn,
Dept of Environmental Sciences,
University of California Riverside,
USA

Dr Michael Raviv,
Dept. of Environmental Horticulture,
Newe Ya'ar Research Centre, Israel

Dr Patricia Millner,
US Dept. of Agriculture,
Beltsville, USA

Dr Enzo Favoino,
Scuola Agraria del
Parco di Monza,
Italy

Assoc Prof Dr Sally Brown,
College of Forestry,
University of Washington,
USA

Dr Jeff Baldock,
CSIRO Land and Water,
Glen Osmond,
Australia

Kevin Handreck,
ex-CSIRO,
Netherwood Horticultural Consultants,
Australia

PRELIMINARY SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

More than 150 abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentation. This provides a fantastic base to develop a very interesting and engaging program, in which topical presentations across a wide range of aspects associated with organic matter management and compost use in horticulture will offer new knowledge and insights to every delegate. Oral presentations will be scheduled in three or four parallel streams, and time will be set aside for poster viewing. At present, the following preliminary program is available.

DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY
Sunday 3 April	
17:00 - 20:00	Pre-Registration
Monday 4 April	
8:00 - 17:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:45	**Opening Addresses & Welcome** Representatives of Australian Government, ISHS, Horticulture Australia, ZERO Waste SA,
9:45 - 10:30	**Plenary Session** Organic matter management and the global carbon cycle Keynote speaker: Dr Rattan Lal, Ohio State University, USA
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 - 12:30	**Technical Session 1** Stream 1-1: SOM management and climate change - adaptation and mitigation Stream 1-2: Benefits of using organic soil amendments in horticultural production Stream 1-3: Case studies - integrated management of SOM
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:00	**Plenary Session** Compost Use in Potting and Growing Meida Keynote speaker: Kevin Handreck, Netherwood Horticultural Consultants, Australia
14:00 - 15:00	**Technical Session 2** Stream 2-1: Using compost and other organic materials in potting mixes and growing media Stream 2-2: Compost quality criteria and standards Stream 2-3: Producing composts for potting and growing media
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 - 17:00	**Technical Session 3** Stream 3-1: Life Cycle Analysis of SOM management Stream 3-2: Benefits of using organic soil amendments in horticultural production Stream 3-3: Socio-economic, political, economic and instituional drivers for SOM management

DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY
Tuesday 5 April	
8:00 - 17:00	Registration
8:30 - 9:15	**Plenary Session** Managing soil carbon in the Australian enviornment Keynote speaker: Dr Jeff Baldock, CSIRO, Australia
9:15 - 10:30	**Technical Session 4** Stream 4-1: Fit-for-purpose products for horticultural uses - composts, mulches, biochar, humic acids, manures, etc. Stream 4-2: Benefits of using organic soil amendments in horticultural production Stream 4-3: Case studies - integrated management of SOM
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 - 12:30	**Technical Session 5** Stream 5-1: Fit-for-purpose products for horticultural uses - composts, mulches, biochar, humic acids, manures, etc. Stream 5-2: Benefits of using organic soil amendments in horticultural production Stream 5-3: Innovation in production technologies, including composting, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	**Plenary Session** Organic matter management in practice Keynote speakers: Dr Peter Stoffella, University of Florida, USA Dr David Crohn, University of California Riverside, USA Dr Michael Raviv, Newe Ya'ar Research Centre, Israel
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 - 17:00	**Technical Session 6** Stream 6-1: Fit-for-purpose products for horticultural uses - composts, mulches, biochar, humic acids, manures, etc. Stream 6-2: Benefits of using composts in potting and growing media Stream 6-3: On-farm handling and application technologies
Wednesday 6 April	
Field excursions (Three separate field trips to vegetable, fruit and wine production areas and trial sites around Adelaide)	

DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY
Thursday 7 April	
8:00 - 17:00	Registration
8:30 - 10:00	**Plenary Session & Round Table Discussion** Managing risks Keynote speakers: Dr Patricia Millner, US Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, USA
10:00 - 10:30	Morning Tea
10:30 - 11:30	**Technical Session 7** Stream 7-1: Risks and challenges of SOM management Stream 7-2: The economics of SOM management Stream 7-3: Case studies - integrated management of SOM
11:30 - 12:30	**Technical Session 8** Stream 8-1: Risks and challenges of SOM management Stream 8-2: Socio-economic, political, economic and instituional drivers for SOM management Stream 8-3: Engaging with and advising farmers - extension products and decision support tools
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	**Plenary Session** Organic matter management - Future trends and challenges Keynote speakers: Dr Enzo Favoino, Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza, Italy Dr Sally Brown, University of Washington, USA
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea
15:30 - 17:00	**Closing Session** Expert panel and interactive session with keynote speakers, representatives of Australian Government, R&D organisations, and peak industry bodies
17:00	Closing of International Symposium
Friday 8 April	
9:00 - 15:00	Special interest group activities (optional) Horticultural industry event (optional) SOM management (optional)