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Terra Preta – make your own fertile soil

Achieving a bountiful vegetable harvest and superior plants without the use of synthetic fertilizers and peat substrate is now possible by using Terra Preta, Portuguese for “black earth”. BUND has been involved in the protection of the wetlands and the reduction of the use of synthetic fertilizers for years. The Terra Preta project supports both objectives in Lower Saxony by introducing an appropriate and sustainable soil matter while promoting its use and application.

In Hannover and other five districts of Lower Saxony, BUND-Niedersachsen in collaboration with several partners built experimental plots housing different vegetables, each with distinct nutrient consumption levels. Additionally BUND and its partners organize a varied program of events.

- 1) Peat free gardening for the protection of climate and wetlands
- 2) Increase public awareness
- 3) Reduce application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- 4) Contribute to the preservation of the local cycle of nutrients
- 5) Produce humus through bio char compost
- 6) Analysis of organic matter cycle in the experimental plots

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Benefits of Terra Preta

Terra Preta represents a cultural technique leading to a sustainable cultivation on the productive plots. You can improve the usually practiced compost and humus management while reducing the use of peat.

- Organic waste becomes available as high quality fertilizer, thereby successfully reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers
- Local organic matter cycles become closed through the direct recycling of organic biomass
- Increased nutrients and water availability in the soil for plants
- Avoids the decomposition process and with it also the emission of methane and carbon dioxide, contributing to the protection of the climate
- The bio char provides the long term carbon sequestration in the soil

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Clover/Klee

- 1) How to produce Terra Preta
- 2) Compost material such as organic residue, wood chips and organic fertilizer
- 3) Soil inoculants from effective microorganism (EM) and molasses or manure

4) Mix it with the certified biochar in order to activate it. It takes 2 to 4 weeks for the fermentation process of humification.

Use of Terra Preta

- In gardens for productive and ornamental plants
- For pots, raised beds or similar
- To reduce the use of peat and chemical fertilizers

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Partners

All project partners have in their district other partners, like schools, public institutions, garden associations and museums, among others. New partners are always welcome and can contact us through the given contact. Event dates can be found on the page below and on the project website. (terrapreta/kooperationspartner)

Scan the QR-Code to learn more about Terra Preta!

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The project has a duration of three years from 2014 to 2017 and is founded by the Niedersächsische Bingo-Umweltstiftung.