

Research into the effect of 'informative' treatments on trees: potentiated gold, bio-dynamic fieldpreparations and human fond attention

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Summary and conclusions

In 1992, 1993 and 1994 the Louis Bolk Institute performed research into the effect of potentiated gold on transplanted trees. This involved four field trials and one pot trial. Research was simultaneously performed on the role that may be played by systematic intuitive* (i.e. non-sensory; N.B. All asterisks* refer to section 3.4) observation in the determination of treatment and the evaluation of its results. This research combined Goethean Science and intuitive techniques.

Gold as a link between cosmic and terrestrial action

Underlying the choice of gold was the metal's qualities as a symbol of the following: aspiration towards the alliance of cosmic and terrestrial action, a central position, non-polarity, harmony and love. In anthroposophic and homeopathic medicine, potentiated gold (*Aurum metallicum*) is prescribed in cases of circulatory problems, certain severe emotional disturbances, deep depression and suicidal tendencies. The analogy with the situation of recently transplanted trees - which similarly lack vitality and need to re-establish themselves with earth and cosmos - was central to this hypothesis.

The decision to use potentiated gold was derived from the experience that these homeopathic dilutions act on vital processes without any toxic side-effects.

Potentiated gold leads to greater growth and enhanced vitality

In three out of five trials involving transplanted apple and sycamores (*Acer platanoides*) significant differences emerged between trees treated with potentiated gold and those treated otherwise. Although the scope of two other trials was too limited, these trials nonetheless tended to corroborate the suggestions of the other trials: that the enhanced vitality resulting from treatment with potentiated gold leads to greater growth, greater leaf cover, lower aphid infestation and a lower incidence of wilt disease. The plane trees showed better leafing in the crown; this might support the hypothesis that gold links cosmic and terrestrial action.

Per trial situation there were variations in the frequency of spray treatment using potentiated gold, and in the dosages and potencies used. Each trial used a mixture of potencies: D12 + D30 + D200. Depending on the trial situation, spraying took place in the spring, early summer and summer. Applications were performed at intervals ranging from once weekly to once monthly. The

action of potentiated gold was tested against three trial groups: untreated, water only, and potentiated water.

Pot trials for detail research

In a pot trial involving year-old apple trees, potentiated gold was compared with the following: water, potentiated water, bio-dynamic fieldpreparations (2 x cattle manure and 2 x horn silica) and with the sole use of loving mental attention.

Each of these treatments had a different effect. Trees in pots showed particularly strong branching and growth.

Bio-dynamic Preparations

Pot trees treated with bio-dynamic preparations showed significantly less branching and were less susceptible to fruit-tree canker (*Nectria galligena*) than trees treated with water. In this respect they most resembled the growth pattern of apple saplings in open soil.

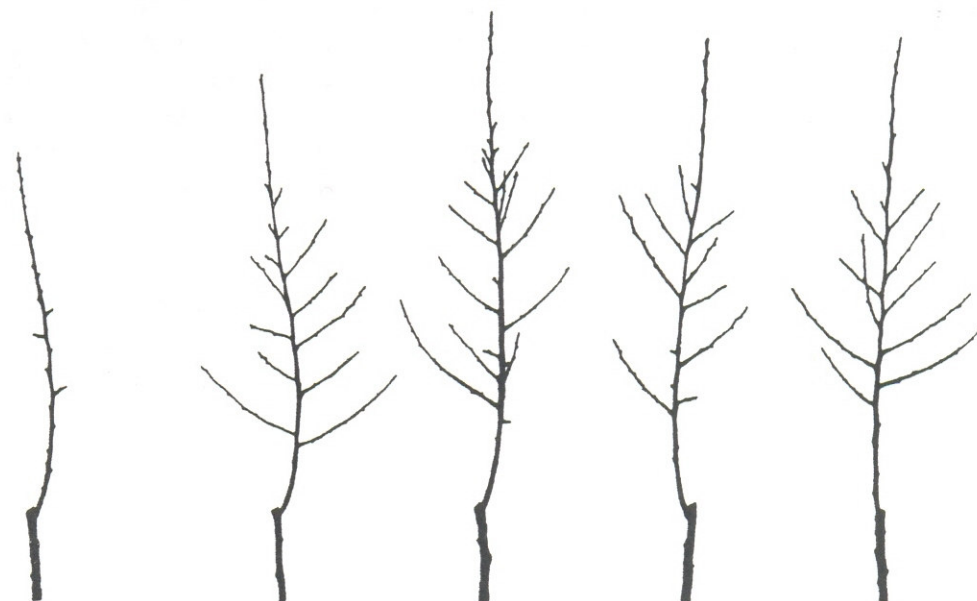
Intuitive observation showed them to be more vital and more >independent=. These observations possibly support the hypothesis that the sprays enhance a development that is simultaneously >true to type= and independent of external influences.

Even human fond attention has an effect

Trees in the pot trial that were given two extra months of loving, interrelationship-enhancing attention showed that, in agriculture, the role of attention should not be underestimated. These trees were significantly taller and suffered less drought stress than those treated only with water. Their branches showed increased growth, particularly towards their neighbours. Intuitive observation showed that these trees were more vital and harmonious than untreated trees. However, in the course of the season this vitality was only apparent in the presence of the person who had given this attention. This suggested that a kind of individually-centred >dependence= had arisen.

The experiments performed with young apple saplings in 1994 provide the most detailed comparison of the different treatments. The pot trial shows an extremely vigorous case.

Fig. 1. Characteristic forms of apple trees in December 1994 (after one season)



May 1994	open soil Noorderhoeve	pot trial water	pot trial gold	pot trial preparations	pot trial attention
vertical growth	low	moderate	highest	moderate	high
blossom	little	little	moderate	little	most
lateral branches	none	many	many	moderate	many
drought stress	--	greatest	little	moderate	least
canker--	high	high	least	high	
vitalitylowest	low	highest	high	high	
character	--	extrovert neutral	extrovert chaotic	introvert independent simmelar to <i>open soil</i>	harmonious person- dependent?

As yet, no practical recommendations can be made

These trials were undertaken purely for the sake of orientation. Further research might determine a framework for judging which of the effects described would be desirable in practice.

In pot trials the arrangement of pots is important

In the trials, two different pot layouts were compared. The first consisted of a rectangular block containing individual trees which were given one or the four treatments, each of which was repeated 12 times. The second consisted of four circles, each containing 12 trees. Each tree in the circle received the same treatment. Each treatment of a circle of 12 trees was in singular. Only the trees arranged in circles showed significant differences between treatments. Intuitive observation showed that information* for the trees in the block arrangement was received at a lower intensity than information received for trees arranged in circles. It is therefore understandable that scarcely any effects were detected for any of the various treatments of the block arrangement. Due to the fact that there was no duplication of the circular arrangements used in the trials, it could not conclusively be determined that the significant differences apparent in the circles were due to the treatments.

The growth of neighbouring trees in the block layout was significantly enhanced in those cases in which, coincidentally, equal treatment had been given. It can therefore be concluded that pot-plants are suitable for trials with informative treatments, but only if all members of a group receive the same treatment, and treatment is not distributed randomly over that block.

English summary from J. Bloksma, 1995: Research into the effect of >informative= treatments on trees. Louis Bolk Institute Driebergen the Netherlands.

The role of intuitive observation

Intuitive observation was useful to this research in two ways.

Firstly, qualitative impressions and observations of features such as radiation*, vitality* and compatibility* (i.e. the adaptation of a tree to its surroundings) made it possible to note the extent to which the treatment affected the tree immediately after the treatment itself had taken place. It was only later in the season that differences in height, lateral branching and damage become apparent visible. Such observations were therefore of great value to interim evaluations of the trial, to understanding its action and to the determination of priorities for sensory observation. With some practice, many people are able to perform this type of observation. This enables the establishment of corroborative values.

Secondly, intuitive observation played a role in the determination of the treatment (i.e. potency, frequency and dosage). As knowledge and understanding of this are still entirely lacking, this was applied on the basis of systematic intuition (comparable to the >Touch for Health= method). Each treatment was designed for the specific situation to which it applied. The ultimate intention is to develop understanding.

It is difficult to devote pure concentration to such abstract concepts. For this reason, working with intuition in such a way requires considerable training.

A glossary was compiled in order to enable comparison of the terminology used by allied schools of thought (e.g. anthroposophy, natural healing, Sheldrake, Resonance Therapy, etc.).