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From: megadome@meganet.net [mailto:megadome@meganet.net] on behalf of megadome@meganet.net
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2004 11:35 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Cc: NOSB Crops; thutcheson@ota.com [mailto:thutcheson@ota.com]; Soilfoodweb@aol.com [mailto:Soilfoodweb@aol.com]
Subject: compost tea comment

Dear Ms. Benham and NOSB,

I would like to submit the following comment on the NOSB's position statement on compost tea, as it appears on the NOSB website.

I think generally the reasoning and conclusions are very good. I would like to suggest that if the use of compost tea, particularly with additives, is ever going to achieve an acceptable status, then every-batch testing of compost tea for pathogens using "acceptable methodology" is going to be a crucial step, at least until (if ever) input formulas and production methods are standardized so that an acceptable assurance of safety can be assumed.

In the web page appendix is a list of "organisms of concern" which may be associated with manure. There are 19 organisms of major concern, 16 of minor concern, and 10 of intermediate concern. Since compost tea is apt to use manure as an ingredient, the question must be asked, are there 45 organisms which need to be tested for using acceptable methodology?

If so, then there's no possibility that compost tea will ever attain legitimacy for farming, which would be a great and unnecessary loss. Since microorganisms are apparently the key beneficial component in compost tea, having a fairly quick, inexpensive, simple method of identifying one or more acceptable indicator organisms, seems like a basic requirement.

Good luck!

Yours truly,

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