

Organic Matter, Matters

Description: This video is based on informative talk shows (similar to a less satirical SNL). It goes over organic matter and how it can help in agriculture through compost and other practical applications.

Transcript:

Camilla- “Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Environmental Evenings, I’m your host Camilla Grass and today’s segment is Organic Matter, Matters. Tonight we will be talking about how we can improve our garden productivity by increasing our soil productivity. Our first guest this evening is Dr. Aliana Evans, an expert on composting in home gardens, who received her PhD from Cornell University. Welcome to the show Dr. Evans!”

Ali- “Thank you! Thank you!”

Camilla- “How are you today?”

Ali- “I’m doing well, how are you?”

Camilla- “I’m good! I’m good! So you were recently featured in one of the top gardening magazines in the nation. How can we transform our backyards into something we all see in a magazine?”

Ali- “Well, I think we underestimate how easy it is to employ more eco-friendly practices. I think the easiest way for the common home to see a difference in their garden would be to start composting. Don’t let your food go to waste! Give it back to the soil! It’s like coming full circle.”

Camilla- “Well now, that seems pretty easy! What would be some other benefits of composting that you can tell us about?”

Ali- “Well, it can bring the community together and it also decreases our collective carbon footprint because we’re not emitting as many greenhouse gasses.”

Camilla- “Interesting! Thank you for coming on our show, this has been great talking to you!”

Ali- “Of course! Thank you for having me!”

Camilla- “Well, you’re welcome back anytime. Join us after our commercial break for our next segment where we will travel to a nearby farm and learn about some of their sustainable practices. Thank you!”

Ali- “Oh no! Dead plants again? Tired of your potted children always dying even when you water and shade them correctly? Well, I have good news for you! All you’re missing is some compost in your soil! It acts as a fertilizer, gets rid of the food waste in a sustainable way, and is free! Just put them together and you’ll see the results! Try it today!”

Camilla- “Welcome back to Environmental Evenings, I'm your host Camilla Grass. We will be continuing tonight’s focus on organic matter with one of our ambassadors, Ava Ghobadian, as we travel to Burwell Farms to learn about some of their sustainable practices. Let’s go over to Ava. Hello everybody, welcome back! And here’s our next guest Ava!”

Ava- “Hi everyone!”

Camilla- “How are you doing today?”

Ava- “Pretty good, how about yourself?”

Camilla- “I’m good! So quick question, in this day and age, how come composting is such an important thing to focus on?”

Ava- “So today’s current problem--or grand challenge--in agriculture is feeding a rapidly growing population. So we’re looking at numbers as high as 10 billion as soon as 2050. So what we need to do is find ways to increase crop production without causing irreparable damage to our environment and also considering the needs of future generations.”

Camilla- “Of course.”

Ava- “So, we can improve this productivity by increasing our farms’ soil organic matter. So, soil organic matter is the fraction of the soil that consists of plant or animal tissue that’s been broken down by several stages. So, levels that are normally found on our local farms can be 3, and even as high as 6% if they are really adopting high and good environmental practices. So I was lucky enough to interview with a local farm, um, Burwell Farms.”

Camilla- “Well speaking of that, that moves us into our next segment, Ava’s interview at Burwell farms.”

Ava- “Good morning Adin, always a pleasure coming down here to see you.”

Adin- “Likewise.”

Ava- “So, last time the crew and I visited, we discussed your business adopting some more sustainable practices. So, how have things changed?”

Adin- “Yes! So on our operation, we are currently investing in no-till plows because we realized that tilling was severely eroding our land. So now we’re using cover crops to increase our beneficials and also to increase soil organic matter.”

Ava- “So you mentioned increasing beneficials and increasing soil organic matter, what’s the relationship between increasing organic matter percentages and also increasing your yield percentages?”

Adin- “Yea! So, a lack of soil organic matter causes a greater difficulty growing plants. So, there’s a problem with fertility, water availability, erosion, and even parasites and disease, so increasing organic matter would decrease these issues and increase yields.”

Ava- “So you mention all these different factors that are extremely important, and I know that you’ve been experimenting with some cover crops and composting. So how difficult has this been, especially as a large scale operation?”

Adin- “Yea, so composting creates quick increases in soil organic matter and I decided on using composting instead of semi-solid manure because I actually work with a local school in a farm to table program, where we’re trying to get children--you know--involved in agriculture on a day-to-day basis.”

Ava- “I mean that’s really phenomenal work, Adin. You’re setting a great example for all the farms around you and I really hope to come back and see how you’re implementing these sustainable practices. Back to you, Camilla!”

Camilla- “Well wasn’t that very informative! Thank you to all of our guests here today--I hope you guys learned something! Thank you for tuning in. Once again, I’m Camilla Grass, your host of Environmental Evenings. I’ll see y’all next time! Bye!”