Organic and Biodynamic Grape Production

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Biodynamic Farming

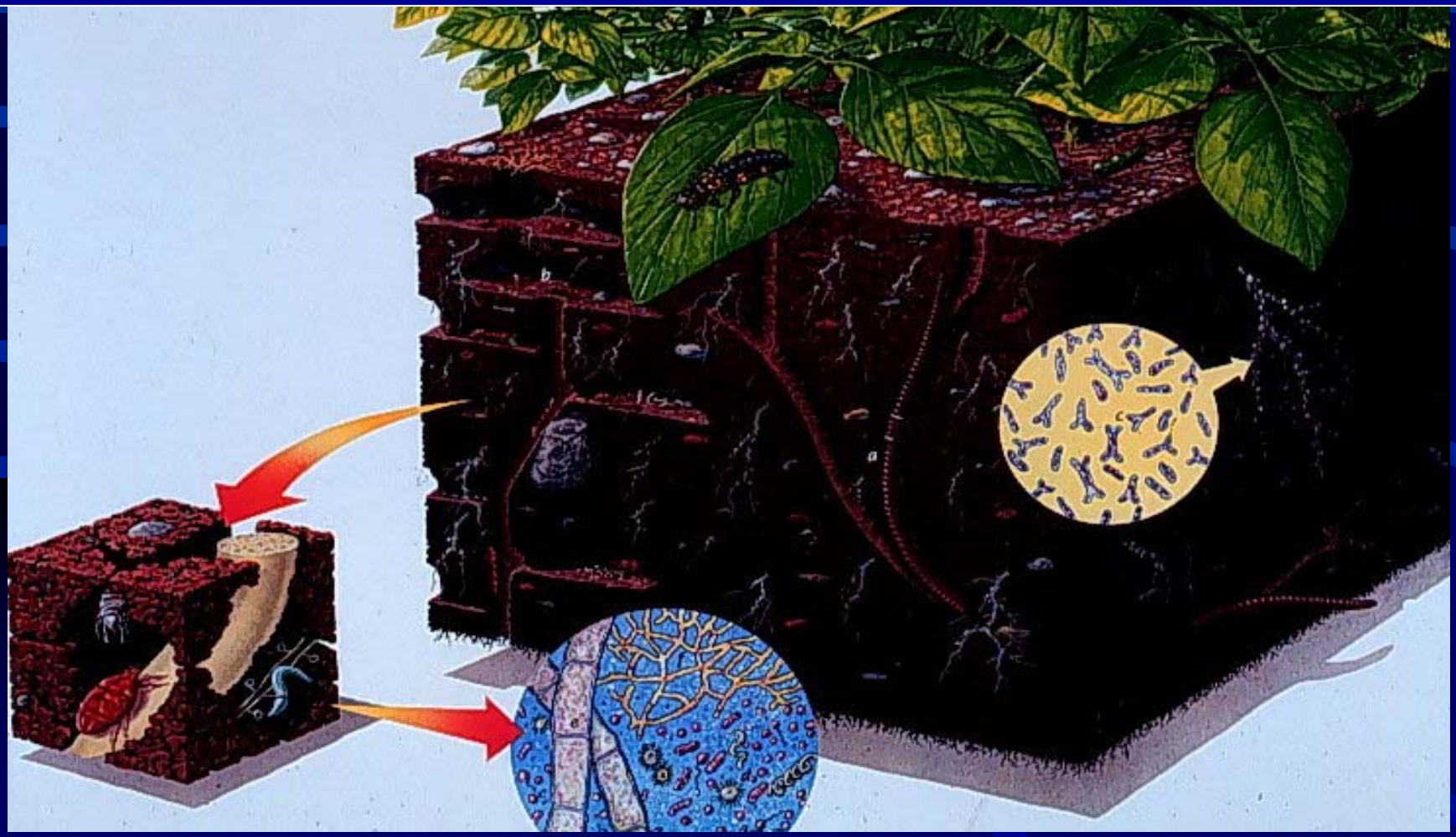
- Follows a strict set of guidelines/rules based on preparations handed down from Rudolph Steiner (1920s).

"Actively work with the health-giving forces of nature: spiritual science"

BIODYNAMICS
Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association

demeter

Building Soil Health– A Key Element of Organic & Biodynamic Farming



Dr. Reganold's Soil Data

Washington State University

Soils Data

(New Zealand farms)

Soil Property	Biodynamic	Conventional
Bulk density (Mg/m3)	1.07	1.15
Penetration resistance (0-20 cm) (MPa)	2.84	3.18
Penetration resistance (20-40 cm) (MPa)	3.55	3.52
Soil Structure Index	7.4	5.7

McNabb Organic Vineyard

Biodiversity across the farm landscape

Frey Wine
Mendocino, California

http://www.freywine.com/

Grapes In Iowa

- Iowa was the sixth largest producer of grapes in the U.S. in early 1900s (9,795 acres)
- Grapes were raised organically (no synthetics)
- Rapid expansion of petrochemicals post-1940 led to decline of vineyards
- 2,4-D herbicide damage and other factors reduced vineyard acreage
- Resurgence of interest in grapes and organic fruit in Iowa since 1999-government support for research and development

U.S. and Iowa Organic Production in 2002

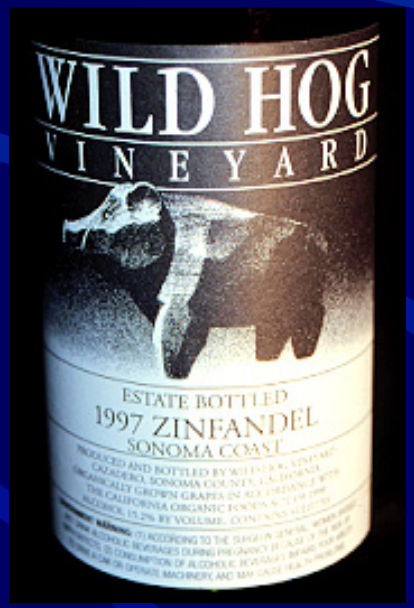
- $13 billion total U.S. industry sales in 2002
- Annual growth rate exceeding 20%
- 2.3 million acres in U.S. (2001)
- 14,532 acres of organic grapes
- 12,189 acres of organic apples
- 500 organic farmers in Iowa
- 150,000 organic acres

S. Nissen-Organic Grapes, Ames

USDA Organic Wine Rules
Effective October 21, 2002

- "Made from organically grown grapes" are wines made from organically grown grapes with sulfur dioxide used in the winemaking process (up to 100 ppm). Other label: "Made from organic grapes"

- "Organic Wine" is made from 100% organic ingredients with no sulfur dioxide added.



Organic Grape Production

Largest constraint (same as for conventional):

- Herbicide drift (deforms leaves; reduces yields; can cause de-certification for one year; results in law suits)