

GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE, Kenya (G-BIACK)
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SOIL GROWTH AND THE BEST REMEDY



Infertile heavy clay soil



High carbon compost pile



Crops thriving out of use of well balance compost

High quality soil is the backbone of sustainable crop production. Well-managed soil supports healthy, vigorous root growth, which improves plant resistance to soil diseases. Building soil requires a long-term management plan to improve soil organic matter, feed beneficial soil microbes and ensure nutrient supply to plants. This long-term plan requires farmers to monitor their management practices over time and to evaluate how these practices affect soil quality. By focusing on growing soil, then crops, GROW BIOINTENSIVE quickly replenishes top soil and organic matter, and creates a symbiotic relationship between plants, insects and microbes.

We have witnessed how our soil has grown at G-BIACK since we started some 11 years ago. The heavy clay soil that was very poor and low in organic matter that would hardly grow any crop has become very fertile overtime. We have been applying a combination of soil fertility management strategies to make sure that our soils are growing but organically.

What is the magic? The use of high carbon to Nitrogen ratio compost commonly known as *60:1 or cold compost* has proved to be the best remedy for poor soils. This means that the pile of compost contains 60 parts of mature materials to 1 part of immature materials in volume. This compost takes longer to decompose but eventually when applied into the soil it lasts longer because it contains high amount of lignin and organic matter. Compost is a farmer's best friend: It helps break up clay particles, allowing water to drain better. In sandy soils, it binds the grains together to retain moisture and fertility. A healthy soil, loaded with compost, will be naturally fertile.

Visit our website: www.g-black.org.

Go to Google maps to see us from above by entering: G-BIACK, Thika, Kenya

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to vulnerable families.

G-BIACK is a registered NGO in Kenya, and donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made directly to G-BIACK or through Network for Good on our web site.

Or checks payable to Kilili Self Help Project may be written and sent to

260 Marion Ave., Mill Valley CA 94941 USA—no overhead will be deducted, meaning that 100% of every donation will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

All contributions are tax-deductible