

The Termites are coming!!!

Some quotes from email discussions about termites:

Termites prefer dead tissue to living plants so the mulch protects the plants from attack. After 23 years of FGW experience we haven't known a problem with FGW when done wholeheartedly. Brian Oldreive Father Farming God's Way

Termites are not a problem. People are really nervous about them, but God made them as well and they have a purpose. You did well to cover your soil. Keep on feeding the termites by covering your soil and they will not eat your crops. The termites incorporate the organic matter into the soil and they are actually making your soil more fertile. The termites will also increase your rain penetration tremendously. Start to see them as your allies not your enemies. I know this is hard to imagine, but it works. August Basson Lesotho Farming God's Way

The challenges we face in Africa are nearly all the same irrespective of nations & I have probably been asked the "termite" problem several hundred times, due to obvious reasons. It is a common case that whenever an ecosystem is in a broken state, that even beneficial organism become a problem. Can you imagine that God in His wisdom has placed them on the earth for the express purpose of playing a role in keeping the land in order & in balance & to give Him glory. All creatures have been made for this purpose, even termites. Now in our current systems where we have denuded our lands to become deserts of all surface cover thru overgrazing, burning, ploughing & destruction of the soil cover, we leave a totally defunct ecosystem which can't function as God created it to. So when initially we begin to increase God's blanket, the termites will definitely increase their activity to breakdown readily available material, especially where a small land is done to this standard. However as soon as the system is brought into order over time, the termites will be unable to remove & bury God's Blanket in sufficient quantities & God's blanket will accumulate to the point where we can cover the 100% of the soil surface. Grant Dryden

"Well done with your defense of God's order in the soil & especially with regard to termite activity & their role in God's order.

Termites are actually only partly to blame for the rapid destruction of organic surface residues. A large proportion of the residues are decomposed by bacteria. The low levels of Organic carbons in the soil, as a result of a history of conventional tillage practices, starve the bacteria & when God's blanket is applied, it provides a perfect environment for them to flourish. Every time the plough goes into the field it is like we send the ecosystem back to square one again & the primary stages of succession, which were created by God, begin.

Although we can't see them or hear them, like we can termites, they often have a far more destructive role to play in the "too rapid" decomposition of God's blanket than termites do. Most of these bacteria are free living in the soil & can survive the poor soil fertility & high acidity resulting from conventional tillage, however their more favourable competitors such as slow breakdown fungi & other decomposers, cannot, mostly due to the frequent soil inversion.

The only way to correct this biotic imbalance is to keep on restoring God's blanket until God's factory in the soil is restored back into order, which takes time.

Soon the fungi : bacteria levels improve & even the numbers of natural predators of the bacteria themselves increase.

As Brian always says – if we are wholehearted in following the steps & are fully persuaded the bogies are soon eradicated.

Just like in most things with God – He loves to restore what has been stolen or broken but it is a process not a quick fix." Grant Dryden

I have actually seen this take place with my own experience in the last 3 seasons in Malawi. Actually phenomenal to watch.

Don't be fooled by the world's systems incl the UN. Agriculture world wide is on the decline with all the "experts" present.

God has shown us how we should do it & we must as His children follow after Him. Wherever you have mulch covers in creation you can achieve it in an agricultural setting. I have witnessed 15 cm thick mulches in African agriculture where there are termites!!!