

I joined the UW Oshkosh team in 2014 as a gardener and was first introduced to the biodigester. The concept was outstanding and aligned with my belief in what we need to do for our world. I saw food and byproduct waste from businesses such as grocery stores, farms and factories along with our own garden and kitchen waste on campus being diverted from landfills into the biodigester. I saw it as a wonderful way to recycle and produce energy that was used to power our buildings. I was further surprised to find out about the other useful byproduct of the biodigester. At the time, Titan Gold was in the works and not yet a product available to us. In 2015 I took over as grounds supervisor and saw for the first time the end result of what the science, innovation and hard work of the Environmental Research Innovation Center (ERIC) could bring to UW Oshkosh and the community of Oshkosh. I was very excited to start using Titan Gold on campus as a topdressing product, soil amendment in new beds and part of our compost tea mix.

Today, I see a product with wide spread possibilities for not only our campus but also throughout the state. We will personally be using hundreds of yards of the Titan Gold to improve our soil and in turn grow stronger plants and turf. With the use of the product my belief is we will be able to greatly reduce the use of pesticides and fungicides at UW Oshkosh by 2018.

I have been a horticulturist for 26 years and worked with a variety of different properties and different conditions. UW Oshkosh along with Winnebago County is predominately clay soil. Plants struggle to survive in the extremes that come with clay, mucky and over saturated in the spring and dry and cracked in the summer. Titan Gold is a unique, superior product that will change the physical, biological and chemical aspects of our clay soil. With the addition of cultural practices like aerifying and topdressing with Titan Gold, the organic matter in the soil will increase. We will also be spraying and watering with compost tea made with Titan Gold and other elements for a balanced microbial product. My belief is if you strengthen the soil, you strengthen the plants.

A wonderful side benefit to the development and sale of Titan Gold is the effect on our student population. In the beginning phase of Titan Gold, students had the opportunity to help in the science and production of a balanced product. Students have been employed to screen, bag and distribute the product. Marketing and sale of Titan Gold has been supported with student staff. The end result being scholarships for the students, funded by the sale of Titan Gold. The compost has been a learning tool for our student population from day one. It starts with their meal waste, to the workings of the biodigester, to the science in the lab making the balanced product and ending with marketing and distribution.

Titan Gold will be a game changer for UW Oshkosh and we will serve as an example for the rest of the state. By applying a simple concept to a larger scale we can greatly improve our environment.

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