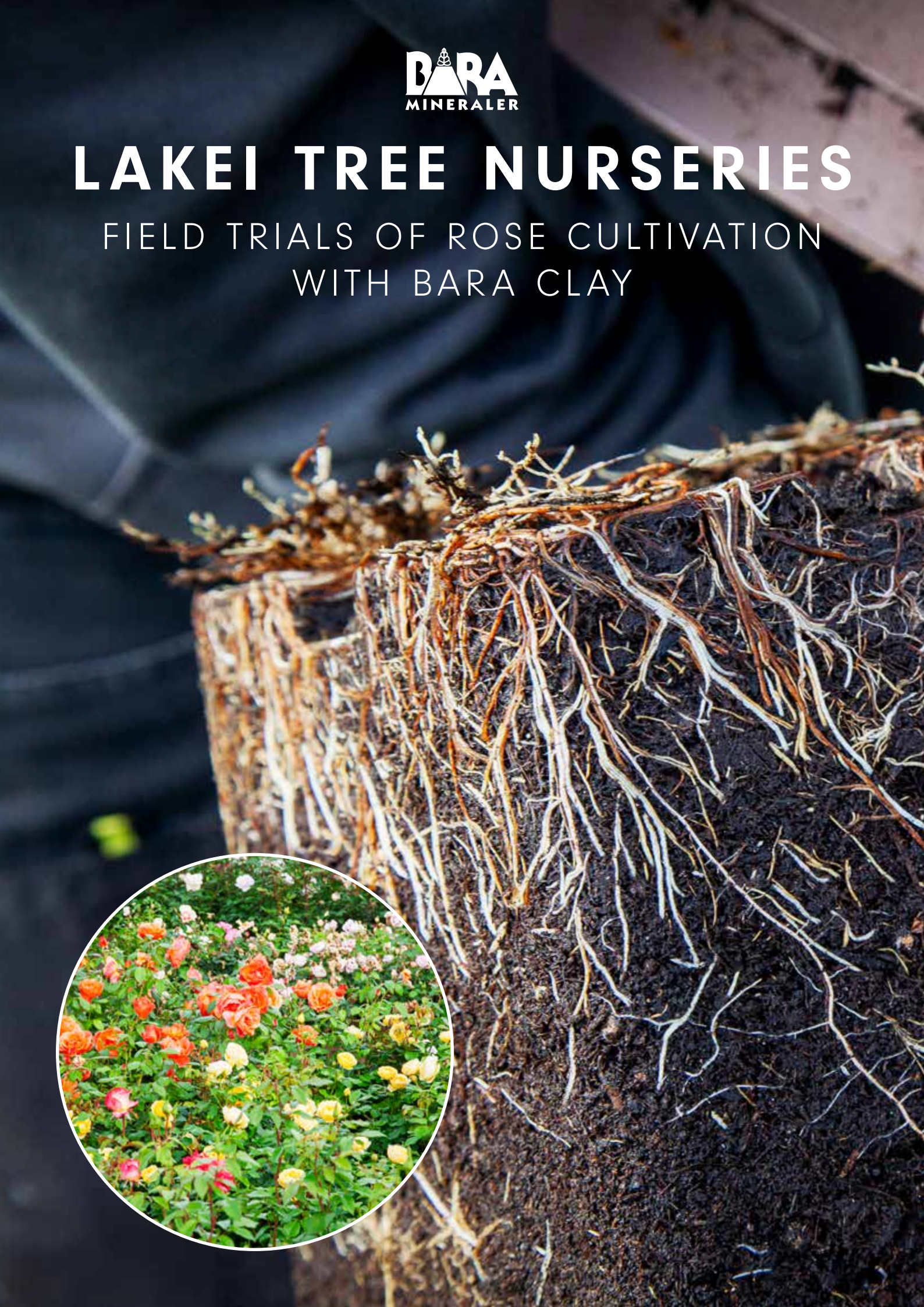




LAKEI TREE NURSERIES

FIELD TRIALS OF ROSE CULTIVATION
WITH BARA CLAY



LAKEI TREE NURSERIES

Bara Mineraler was visiting Lakei Tree Nurseries and we were warmly welcomed by Joep van de Pasch who enthusiastically showed us around.

Emiel Keiren and Hans van de Laak started the company together in 2003 so they recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. The company name Lakei was created by merging their surnames.

The company specializes in the cultivation of garden roses and lilacs. The specialization is reflected in not fewer than 170 varieties of roses and 140 varieties of lilacs that are grown. Lakei carries out the entire production chain in house, from propagation to the soaking of an end product in pots. This means that Lakei has access to high-quality starting material. The company has 35 hectares of open land and 7 hectares of container fields at its disposal. Every year, approximately 500,000 roses are grown in one 3- and 5-liter pots and approximately 250,000 lilacs are grown in pots.

The company has been trying for years to make the crop stronger and less susceptible to diseases. As a result, a trial with BARA clay was started a few years ago. From the first tests I got the feeling and insight that BARA clay 'did something with the roses'. Over the years, the experiments with BARA clay have been repeated and expanded. In 2023, the company decided to provide a large part of rose production with a potting soil mixture with BARA clay. This year a trial was also set up with a peat-free potting soil combined with BARA clay.



Joep van de Pasch, Lakei tree nurseries





The granules of Bara clay can be seen in the substrate.
The clay stays well distributed in the pot over the growing period
and do not flush down to the bottom of the pot.



We have been doing tests with BARA clay for several years. We believe it is important that the tests are assessed independently and objectively. To this end, we have a collaboration with research institution Compas Agro and the potting soil supplier Kekkilä-BVB in Grubbenvorst. Compas Agro ensures that the tests and associated protocols are carried out correctly. We have gained more insight based on analyses and visual observations.

With BARA clay we see that the crop is more compact, and the crop is less sensitive to disease. In addition, we believe that BARA clay has added value for our customers. With this we relieve our customers. Barac clay retains more moisture and nutrition in the sales phase, for example at garden centers. Due to the positive results with BARA clay, we therefore provided the entire production of roses in a 5-liter pot with a mixture of BARA clay last year.

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IS MORE COMPACT, AND THE CROP IS
LESS SENSITIVE TO DISEASE**

Hans van de Laak, owner of Lakei tree nurseries




Within the Professional Growing business unit, Bram van Bommel is the specialist in the field of tree nursery crops.

At Kekkilä-BVB we have years of experience with mixing clay in general. In theory, we use clay to reduce Readily Available Water (GBW). This can give a more compact growth, depending on the type of clay and the amount. However, so far in practice we see relatively little added value in cultivation, and we often do not see this more compact growth again. This is different at the end of the cultivation, during the transport channel or at the final point of sale. Then we see the buffer of clay in the form of a better colour and that plants last longer with the availability of moisture from this clay.

We have been very positively surprised with Bara clay and we see clear added value during cultivation. At Lakei we have been doing tests for a number of years and we see this added value again and again. On the one hand, more compact growth, a somewhat dark colour, but also occasionally more resistance to fungi. This despite a relatively low dosage and a slightly coarser fraction of 2-6 mm.

We also see this more compact growth in Hydrangea cultivation, where we can even lower the dosage and still see the same effect. This allows savings on braking, which is very positive in terms of sustainability!

The use of peat is currently under pressure, rightly or wrongly. In general, with less peat we have less buffer on moisture, nutrient retention capacity and pH fluctuation. In this development, I see Bara clay as a very positive raw material for rebuilding this buffer.



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Bram van Bommel, product specialist tree nursery crops at Kekkilä-BVB Grubbenvorst B.V.



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