

GROMOR AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

In my August 2013 newsletter I touched on Land Redistribution to correct the “wrongs” of the 1913 Land Act. To date ±92% of the land redistributed has fallen into disuse, but the programme grinds on – too slowly for Malema and his EFF party, who have made land redistribution without compensation part of their election manifesto.

One just hopes that the expropriation of land as has happened in Zimbabwe doesn't happen here. Unfortunately, the principles contained in the new Bill on Land Redistribution that was recently debated in our parliament is similar. Then we do of course have D'Moss in place here in Durban which essentially involves placing restrictions on the use of land to the point where that land becomes valueless, other than giving one the privilege of paying rates on it! Just in case you believe that D'Moss restrictions are only placed on areas with potential for sustainable conservation, this is not the case. There are many cases where it traverses TRANSFORMED LAND. No compensation is paid like there is for land taken for Roads, Eskom etc.

LAWNS

1. With Spring around the corner, have your mower serviced, with blades either sharpened or replaced.
2. Now is the only time I recommend mowing low and removing the clippings, which can be put into the compost heap.

For the rest of the year mow regularly as high as possible to keep the lawn looking good. One needs to have adequate photosynthetic leaf area to maintain healthy roots!

In agriculture this means a minimum of 42 days' rest (without grazing or mowing in the growing season) in order to build up grass root reserves. This is of course not possible for a lawn in summer, but cutting right down to ground level whenever one mows causes excessive plant stress!

Whether you remove or leave trimmings, depends on you.

- If you LEAVE trimmings, fertilize with GROMOR 4.1.1(21) at 50g/m² in early spring and autumn.
 - If you REMOVE trimmings, fertilize with GROMOR 5.1.5(28) at 50g/m², again twice a year in spring and autumn.
3. Whilst generally not recommending herbicide applications in the garden, I know of no other way of reducing (I wish I could say eradicating) the “round leaf” Hydrocotyl, which thrives in moist shady spots in the lawn. Spray once the grass starts growing in spring.

The different trade names that the same weedkillers go by, is confusing. 2,4D goes by the name of TROOPER whilst MCPA goes by the names of RESCUE or BANWEED. A spray with RESCUE or BANWEED (MCPA) or TROOPER at 40mℓ and adding a booster like SUMMIT at 10mℓ to 5ℓ water, is usually effective. If the TRIANGULAR stemmed WATERGRASS is a problem, add 1g SERVIAN to the 5ℓ. For wider weed eradication, MCPA and 2,4D can be sprayed together: 40mℓ of each plus 10mℓ SUMMIT in 5ℓ water.

If in doubt, read the lable! Remember to only spray on a calm windless day, when the sun is shining.

4. About 10 days after the herbicide application OR if not spraying with herbicides, as the grass starts growing, apply GROMOR LAWN DRESSING at 1 x 30dm³ bag/5m² to 10m²
A lawn dressing can be applied anytime over the growing season.
5. Apply GROMOR dolomitic lime at 300g/m² once every 3 years.

DEVELOPMENTS MIMMICKING NATURE

The development of the Japanese Bullet Train was nearly scuppered before it got going. Not because it was not fast enough (it reached a speed of 300 kmh) or safe enough, but because of the sonic boom which reverberated for miles around, whenever it entered a tunnel. A member of the design team then noticed a Kingfisher bird, with it's slender pointed beak diving into a pool of water hardly making any splash. They proceeded to copy the Kingfishers Beak design for the Bullet Train's Nose Cone and “bang”, the “boom” was gone!

The FARMERS WEEKLY does have many excellent articles. A bit late now but Dr Charlie Reinhardt's article in the Farmers Weekly of 11 December 2015 entitled “Weed Control with Natural Products”, describes different herbicides made from plant and/or bacterial cultures.

I quote from the article. Phosphinothricim and bialaphos are both obtained from streptoruyce spp soil bacteria. To totally confuse you, phosphinothricim is sold as the synthetically produced herbicide GLUFOSINATE. Another herbicide utilising a naturally produced organic culture is BIOPHOS which is the product emanating from fermentation by Streptomyces spp bacteria.

As an aside, GLUFOSINATE can be used to augment the activity of glyphosate (ROUNDUP) if herbicide resistance is suspected.

Unfortunately, the subject does not make for easy reading, but maybe that's just me!

Dr. "Charlie", as Dr. Reinhardt is better known, is very approachable and can be reached at 011 396 2233 or creinhardt@villaacademy.co.za

Staying on the nature theme and Farmers Weekly, the article on pages 54,55,56 of the 10 June 2016 issue, by our own KZN soils expert, Guy Thibaud on NO-TILL made for highly informative and easy reading. Guy is in the Cedara Soil Science Department at 033 355 9447 or guy.thibaud@kzndard.gov.za.

I wish the Cedara Soil Lab were a bit quicker in analysing soil samples!

NUMBERS ON FERTILIZER BAGS

Bryan Christophers, the Gromor Rep informs me that he is regularly asked what the numbers on the GROMOR fertilizer bags represent.

1. The 3 numbers represent the RATIOS of the 3 major macro elements i.e. Nitrogen (N) Phosphate (P) and Potassium (K)
2. The number in the bracket after the 3 numbers, represents the sum of the PERCENTAGES of the 3 elements.

Fertilizer	Percentage %			SUM OF NPK %
	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potassium	
GROMOR 2.3.2(14)	4%	6%	4%	14
GROMOR 2.3.4(30)	7%	10%	13%	30
GROMOR 5.1.5(28)	12,75%	2,5%	12,75%	28
GROMOR 4.1.1(21)	14%	3,5%	3,5%	21
GROMOR SUPER PHOSPHATE	NIL	10,5%	NIL	10,5
GROMOR LAN	28%	NIL	NIL	28

Take care when spreading nitrogen and potassium containing fertilizers. They can "burn" the vegetation if over applied or spread unevenly!

GROMOR IS MOVING

In the next few months GROMOR will be moving to a well located site about a kilometre along the Richmond Road which turns off the N3, between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. HAGEN

PS: This may be a repeat! I love watching the Tour de Frans, but always feel sad that Lance Armstrong is never mentioned and how hard they came down on him when they discovered he was on drugs. When I was on drugs, I couldn't even find my bike!

PPS: Three burglars break into a bank vault and are confronted by a soldier, a cop and a politician. The politician tells the soldier to kill the burglar leader, who pulls out a weapon and in the skirmish, the soldier and burglar are both killed.

The politician then tells the cop to arrest the remaining two. A scuffle ensues and the cop and second burglar are left unconscious.

The politician walks up to the remaining standing burglar and says: "I just saved your life, your freedom and tripled your share of the loot. I think 20% is a fair cut?!"