



GROMOR (PTY) LTD

CK: 2012/001907/07

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GROMOR MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

HYDROPONICS OR ORGANICS – ARE THEY REALLY THE ANSWER?

Many people believe that growing hydroponically or following “organic” principles will solve their problems. I doubt whether more than 10% of growers who have ventured into these alternatives have been successful in the home garden, let alone on a commercial scale.

a) HYDROPONICS

Unless one is dedicated, disciplined, has a sound knowledge of growing and can afford a sophisticated “growing house” for climate control, one is going to have crop failures with hydroponics. But probably the biggest limiting factor nowadays is the quality of water. The pH of most regional treated tap water is ± 2 points higher than ideal for nutrient uptake, whilst river, dam and even a lot of borehole water is polluted.

The addition of 125mℓ nitric acid/1000ℓ water will usually bring the pH down into the required range of 5,6 to 6,4. If it doesn't, one can add another 125g, but no more.

GROMOR has a small, but full range of hydroponic fertilizers at competitive prices.
GROMOR New Generation Coastal Blend and GROMOR Calmag N+ micro

These fertilizers will supply the full range of both macro and micro nutrients required for growth and production. There is a proviso – whilst they are formulated to work in a solution at 1g/ℓ water of each, they must NOT be mixed together in a CONCENTRATED solution, as this will result in precipitation and unavailability.

For Potplants and Seedlings use GROMOR 3.1.3(37)ws complete, applied at 1g/ℓ weekly or more often, depending on growth required. When applying, ensure that the plant gets a good watering, preferably with 20% runoff.

If going the hydroponic route, try to set up your operation to use runoff rain water collected in tanks from rooves.

b) ORGANICS

If its straight “organics” you're aiming for, remember that it is not necessarily “natures” way. You may be growing a crop that is not adapted to your growing conditions and being intensive, it will attract pests and diseases which can quickly wipe out a crop, unless control action is taken. Rather than watch the crop wiped out, spray with a fungicide or insecticide at the recommended rate, then stay away for a week and wash the produce before eating it.

c) **ALTERNATIVE**

I still believe that one has the best chance of success growing in the ground.

- Firstly, ensure that pH is brought to the generally accepted best range for nutrient uptake. This is 5,6 to 6,4 and is usually achieved by applying and working into the soil as deeply as possible 3 tons Lime/ha every 3 to 5 years.
- Secondly, conserve soil organic matter through minimum tillage, not applying excessive nitrogen (especially urea) and where possible applying compost or manure.

GROMOR Compost – apply 1 x 30dm³ bag to 5m² - 10m² (50dm³ bag/15m²), and plant with an organic fertilizer like GROMOR ACCELERATOR at 1½ tons/ha (150g/m²) or a compound fertilizer like GROMOR 2.3.2(22) at 300kg/ha (30g/m²) and topdress with 300kg/ha (30g/m²) GROMOR LAN.

Rainfall is often the limiting factor for plant growth in the open ground requiring one to take all possible measures to increase the efficiency of what does fall.

Healthy soil is full of life. It contains lots of air, large amounts of organic matter, retains moisture, releases minerals, houses beneficial insects such as dung beetles, binds nitrogen from the air and allows the carbon cycle to flourish. One hundred kilograms of soil containing 2% humus retains 60 kg water, whilst the same amount of soil with 5% humus has a water retention capacity of ±180kg water. Many of our soils have less than 2% soil organic matter, whilst 100 years ago they are estimated to have contained ±10%. (The Holistic Alternative – André Mentz)

Regards,

GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. Hagen

PS: Elderly gentleman walks into a pharmacy and is attended to by a sprightly young lass who asks: "How can I help you sir?"

"My wife tells me that all old men smell and that its time I started using a deodorant".

To this the young lady replies: "Certainly; we have a good range. Would you like a spray or ball"

To this comes the embarrassed retort. "No, just for my arm pits!"

PPS: This is NOT a joke!!! Be prepared for a product price hike in the near future.

PPPS: Overheard! One of our staff member went for an interview with the manager of an opposition company who told him they were looking for someone who was responsible. "Well I'm definitely your man" he replied. "in my current job, whenever anything goes wrong, they say I was responsible".