



**GROMOR (PTY) LTD**  
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### **GROMOR NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

We're now established at our new premises about a kilometre off the N3 towards Richmond. Whilst a little further for Durban clients who came to the Harrison factory to pick up GROMOR, it has advantaged our Pietermaritzburg clients. I assure that in "the bigger scheme of things" the move is advantageous and will be even more so, when the fertilizer blending plant is moved next door.

### **MONOCROPPING**

Whilst properly managed NO TILL will build a healthier soil, care should still be taken in spotting any signs of disease build up, especially when monocropping. To break the cycle, it's not a bad idea to plant a "break crop" every four years. Whilst not often used in KZN, BLACK OATS is a good one. Planted in April it will grow over winter, grazed in early spring, followed by "land prep" and be ready for planting when the rains come. Not only does Black Oats provide a good level of soil organic matter, it also inhibits the growth of weeds such as Cynodon and Watergrass, as well as discouraging damage causing nematodes. Another good alternative to break monocropping is planting a nitrogen fixing legume like SOYA BEANS or CLOVER, planted in the rotation for grazing. Always remember that cattle and sheep are scavengers, that do exceptionally well on crop residues with a simple "Non-Protein Nitrogen, Phosphate and Salt lick"

### **SEED SOWING TIPS FOR THE SUBURBAN GARDENER**

- If you're not really a committed gardener, rather buy seedlings in trays. Whilst the small trays are fine for those in retirement villages, in bigger suburban gardens, try to get bigger trays.
- If on the other hand you want to do it yourself, try and get a 128 polystyrene tray. The advantage of a polystyrene tray is that it retains the temperature around the fine germinating roots better, as well as not bending, which disturbs the plugs and germinating roots.
- Fill the trays with moistened GROMOR SEEDLINGMIX.
- Make a small prick hole in the Seedlingmix in the middle of each cavity for planting into.
- DO NOT plant a whole handful of seeds in each cavity. If the seed is very fine, mix them with some mealie meal. Cover the planted trays with a fine sprinkling of GROMOR SEEDLINGMIX.
- Special care needs to be taken when watering seedlings. The water drops from a hosepipe or standard watering can are too big, causing the seedlingmix around the germinating seedlings to be disturbed and negatively affect germination. Some garden outlets sell spouts with tiny holes, that screw into a 1ℓ cooldrink bottle. Press the bottle and a light spray of water is emitted.
- Whilst GROMOR SEEDLINGMIX is pre-enriched with both macro and micro nutrients, this can only be done to a very small degree without effecting germination. For this reason, feeding needs to start 2 weeks after germination. This will involve giving a weekly watering with a solution of 1 Teaspoon GROMOR PLANT FOOD in 5ℓ WATER (1g/ℓ), followed by the normal straight watering for the rest of the week.

- When TRANSPLANTING, let the trays dry out for a day, press PLUGS from the bottom up, disturbing roots as little as possible and plant into a well-prepared bed into which GROMOR COMPOST (1 x 30dm<sup>3</sup> bag/10m<sup>2</sup> to 15m<sup>2</sup> or 1 x 60dm<sup>3</sup> bag/25m<sup>2</sup>) and GROMOR ACCELERATOR organic fertilizer pellets) have been dug into.  
GROMOR ACCELERATOR ORGANIC FERTILIZER PELLETS  
5kg bag to cover 30m<sup>2</sup> to 40m<sup>2</sup>  
10kg bag to cover 60m<sup>2</sup> to 80m<sup>2</sup>  
20kg bag to cover 120m<sup>2</sup> to 160m<sup>2</sup>
- Once the seedlings are established and growing, cover OPEN ground with GROMOR PINEBARK MULCH. Healthy living soil does not like constant sun on it.

### **FIELD CROPS SUITABLE FOR THE SUBURBAN GARDENER**

As we get into summer, it's time to plant bigger seeds in situ. Beans, cucumbers, carrots, beetroot, sweetcorn and pumpkin, not forgetting sweet potatoes and madumbies.

Just remember that these crops and most others for that matter, like sun, so make sure that anything planted in the shade will be suited to such conditions.

### **FOR INTEREST SAKE**

1. Constant research is being undertaken on growing and processing "cannabis/hemp" for medicinal purposes with the oil already being used fairly widely for pain relief, (we won't talk about smoking it i.e. dagga). It is still a long way off it being legalised, particularly considering that cannabis is a psychoactive drug, with potentially harmful side effects. Despite this, that the oil does alleviate chronic pain is undeniable.
2. The growing of chicory in KZN is being reinvestigated by Prof. Isa Bertling, a horticultural scientist at the University of KZN, Pietermaritzburg. From initial results it does not look particularly attractive, but it's still too early to come to any definite conclusions.

Regards,

**GROMOR (PTY) LTD**

### **R. HAGEN**

PS: Last month I told you about Warren Geyser the Gromor CEO having had a Pacemaker fitted and me landing in hospital with an epileptic seizure. Well after 10 days of incorrect diagnoses and me feeling terrible, my cardiologist, who had been on leave, took one look when he got back, and that same day fitted a heart pacemaker, which has increased my resting pulse from  $\pm 30$  to  $\pm 80$ . It's an incredible operation, done under local anaesthetic. It's not painful, whilst the incision is being made, which being on your chest you can literally watch, but when the battery and wires to one's heart are put in place it's very painful. The battery has an 18-year life span!

PPS: The headmistress of a girl's school asks the local vicar to give her pupils a talk on Christianity and sex. The vicar is happy to do so but doesn't want to upset his prudish wife, so he tells her he'll be giving the girls a talk about sailing. A week later the headmistress meets the vicar's wife in the street and tells her what a good talk her husband gave. "I can't imagine it was that good," says the wife. "He's only ever done it twice. The first time he threw up, and the second time his hat blew off."