

GROMOR OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

MAD DOG SYNDROME

A fit sportsman has a resting pulse rate (heart beat) of ± 60 beats per minute, which rises during a game whilst under tension. Top sportsmen reach their optimal potential between 115 and 145 beats per minute. Higher than this, (e.g. to 175 beats per minute) we see a breakdown of cognitive skills. What apparently happens is that the “forebrain” “shuts” down and the “midbrain” takes over. The “midbrain” is the same as what a vicious dog functions on. It is impossible to reason with someone experiencing this “mad dog” syndrome.

A good example of this happened in the SA vs Aus 2nd test, when one of the Wallaby’s grabbed one of the Springbok’s by his dreadlocks and threw him round onto the ground. Etzabeth, the Springbok captain totally lost it and going to the rescue of his team-mate “climbed” in, being very lucky not to be “red carded.”

SOIL HEALTH & BIOLOGICAL WEED CONTROL

Whatever your current cultivation practices, keep in touch with new developments.

“No Till” has become generally accepted to increase soil health and the earthworm population, which act like little ploughs!

For weed control, herbicides are often frowned upon, but using the correct herbicide which will limit soil disturbance, is generally better than cultivation.

If you do till, bear in mind that weed density tends to be greatest when soil is tilled early in the growing season. Alan Herman, a weed control expert, suggests that farmers may be better able to manage weed control by adjusting the timing of tillage, crop rotation and other cultural management practices.

AVOCADO PEAR PRODUCTION

Whilst the current emphasis is on expanding macadamia nut cultivation, the demand for avocados, which are grown in the same areas, is also growing exceptionally fast.

There are now varieties available, enabling producers to supply avocados virtually throughout the year. The main “pest” would appear to be monkeys!

The demand in Europe, where “Avo and Bacon” sandwiches are rated No1, is predicted to continue growing. Intensive Avo production is expensive. The crop is picked by hand to avoid bruising, which together with fertilizer and transport costs, to the big markets, places us (i.e. SA) in a more favourable position due to our more affordable cost structure.

The potential has been recognized with a R75 million Packhouse having been built by Koeltehof Packers in Hazyview. This new facility, which has been in use since March this year, has the capacity to pack around 4 million cartons of Avos annually, a welcome increase from the 1,2 million cartons that the previous pack-house could handle.

BIOLOGICAL FARMING FOR A LONG-TERM CROP

- Do a soil analysis as deep as possible and correct where possible.
- Correct pH to the 5,6 – 6,4 range.
- Irrespective of the P phosphate level, apply a dressing of phosphate as per soil analysis recommendation. This is essential. The other elements as per recommendations should also be applied.
- Make sure to lime as per recommendations (In clay soil, include 20% of the lime required in the form of gypsum)
- Apply 20m³/ha of a manure based compost like GROMOR.
- Once the crop has been planted, apply MULCH to the rows. This will prevent soil overheating which does more harm than is generally appreciated.
- Do an annual soil analysis and correct with a topdressing or foliar spray.

FOOD SECURITY

In South African politics, food security does not hold the high place that it should. Looking at the size of our politicians, it is difficult to believe that 20% of South Africans go to bed hungry! It is not a shortage of food that is the problem. The problem is affordability, which is primarily due to the 27% unemployment we are experiencing. With our population growth, coupled with the harassment one experiences with labour and technical advances to fall back onto, we're staring 50% unemployment in the face.

You've probably heard this one before, but it is so sickening, I am going to repeat it! Known as the Vrede Dairy Project, it was nothing but a corrupt scam used by President Jacob Zuma and his cronies, the Guptas, to syphon off taxpayers' money for their own use, with R32 million for the Gupta wedding, reputed to be one of them. Unbelievably not a single black farmer was empowered, with zero transformation achieved.

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. HAGEN

PS: Gromor CEO, Warren Geyser has had a "pacemaker" fitted. We wish him a speedy recovery.

PPS: Not to be outdone, I landed in hospital with an epileptic seizure.

PPPS: "An English tourist goes to an Irish race meet and sees a priest blessing one of the horses. To the tourist's surprise, the horse wins, as do the next two horses the priest blesses. He sees the priest bless a fourth horse and puts all his money on it. Unfortunately, the loud crack of the starting pistol gives the horse a heart attack and it drops dead before it can take a single step. Later the tourist tells the priest about his disastrous bet, and asks why his blessing didn't work on the fourth horse. "Are you a Protestant?" asks the priest. "Yes, I am," replies the tourist. "well then," says the priest. "You'll not be knowing the difference between a blessing and the last rites."