

GROMOR AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

With spring here, it's time to prepare the summer garden.

LAWNS

1. If you have not already done so, service your garden implements post-haste.
2. (a)Lawn mower.
 - Sharp blades are particularly important, if in doubt replace them.
 - The lever to adjust the height of cut should also function properly. With a few exceptions it is better to cut lawns slightly high so as to allow for more photosynthetic area, which makes for a healthier sward.
 - Check that the electrical cord and plug are in sound working order.
 - Make sure that other garden implements are not likely to break. Inspect them all yourself. This includes the pool leaf cleaner and sweep. When the leaves stop falling, it's also a good time to check that the plastic leaf baskets, pumps and Kreepy are all functioning properly.
 - Weeds. If your lawn has a lot of weed, consider applying a WEEDKILLER on a calm, warm (not hot) sunshine day. The different tradenames of weed killers containing similar active ingredients is confusing. The two most common BROADLEAF WEEDKILLERS are 2,4 D and MCPA. 2,4D goes by the name of Trooper, whilst MCPA goes by the names of RESCUE and BANEED. A spray of 40ml of any of these in 5l water is usually successful, but if not, spray a combination of them and add a Sticker. If the triangular stem Watergrass (Nutgrass) is a problem, then spray with 1g SERVIAN/ 5l water. The SERVIAN can be combined with 2,4 D and MCPA sprays. The biggest nuisance in lawns is probably the clover-like OXALYS and HYDROCOTYL, which thrive in moist shady areas. An annual spray with a broadleaf weed killer usually keeps these weeds in check.

(a) FEEDING

- An initial application of GROMOR LAWNDRESSING at 1x30dm³ bag per 5m² to 10m² is always a good idea. Also available in 60dm³ bags, it can be applied anytime; more than once per season if necessary.
- To prevent the build-up of soil acidity, apply a dressing of GROMOR AGRICULTURAL LIME at 300g/m² every 3 years. Lime comes in 10kg and 50kg bags. 1x10kg bag to cover 33m².
- Do not start applying fertilizer until we've had ±30mm of rain. Then apply GROMOR 4.1.1 (21) at 50g/m². GROMOR 4.1.1 (21) comes in 2kg,5kg and 10kg bags. A 10kg bag to cover 200m². Depending on the state of the lawn, two further dressings can be applied over the season. I do not recommend applying GROMOR ACCELERATOR as a top dressing as it is inclined to smell and if you have dogs, they love rolling in it and bringing the smell into the house.

FLOWERBEDS, SHRUBBERIES AND TREES

(a) PLANTING.

- Dig in GROMOR COMPOST at 1x 30dm³ bag to 5m² to 10m² together with GROMOR ACCELERATOR ORGANIC FERTILIZER PELLETS at 300g/m² (1x20kg bag/66m²,10kg bag/30m² 5kg bag/15m²).
NB: The GROMOR ACCELERATOR application is higher than normal because it is dug into the ground.

: Shrubs and trees must be planted into square, not round holes on an overcast day if possible. Make sure that the soil that they are planted into is moist and give a lot of water on alternate days for a fortnight and then weekly once rains start coming regularly.

(b) MAINTENANCE

I see what I consider to be far too many shrubs, ornamental bushes and trees growing in soil where the surface around them has been raked clean, leaving the sun to bake down on it.

Consider feeding and mulching this class of plant. For feeding, apply GROMOR COMPOST at 1x30dm³ bag/5m² to 10m² lightly scratched into the soil with GROMOR 5.1.5(28), at 30g/m² and cover the bare ground with GROMOR PINEBARK MULCH and watch the difference in growth over the season. GROMOR 5.1.5(28) is available in 2kg,5kg and 10kgbags; apply at 30g/m².

INSECTS

After my comments on insects in a previous newsletter, I was interested to come across a quote by E.O Wilson, whoever he might be! "If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos, with little chance of regeneration!"

GM MAIZE

GM Maize was introduced into SA in 2001 and by 2010 more than 2,2 million hectares were planted to GM maize, which represented $\pm 89\%$ of the total maize planted.

This coupled with technological advances has led to significant yield increases. For example, during the 1997/1998 production year, before the introduction of GM maize, the top yields of maize under irrigation in the Northern Cape were ± 9 tons/ha which increased to ± 14 tons/ha in the 2016/2017 production year once they started planting GM, maize. Believe it or not this has been achieved together with soil improvement, whilst the maize yields of our neighbours in Africa remains at ± 2 tons/ha. The irony of this is that while African governments refuse to adopt GM crops, they have made themselves dependant on the rest of the world's GM foodstuff, which they find necessary to import to feed their burgeoning populations. (Farmers weekly 18 May 2018.)

SOIL HEALTH

If you read my newsletters regularly, you will know how I propagate NO-TILL and have felt that it was the answer on all soil types. Well it looks like I was wrong for the sandy Avalon, Clovelly and Longlands soils which under no-till are prone to forming an impenetrable layer within the soil profile which benefits considerably from deep ripping, not ploughing.

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. Hagen

PPS: A woman in a supermarket notices a grandfather and a badly behaved three-year-old kid.

The child is screaming for sweets, toys etc. The grandfather calmly works his way through the shop. "Easy Shaun, we won't be long." The misbehaviour continues! At the checkout the little brat is throwing things out of the cart. The grandfather continues in his controlled voice. "Shaun relax we're nearly finished!"

Very impressed a woman behind them at the till, goes out to see the grandfather still calm, loading his purchases and getting the "terror" into the car seat!

In wonderment she says to the grandfather. "You kept your composure no matter how disruptive the youngster got. Shaun is very lucky to have you as a grandpa. "Thanks, says the man, but I'm Shaun. The little brat's name is Kevin."