

GROMOR JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

AGRICULTURE

Crop yields have generally been good this past season, but prices have been poor, which has put strain on the producer's cash flow.

Farmers can no longer afford to skimp on soil sampling. Make sure it is thoroughly done and soil fertilized to best advantage. This was clearly explained in WORLD FETILIZER JAN/FEB 2018, from which I quote: "the fertilizer sector will be one of the first industries disrupted by the growing integration of internet and big data technology in agriculture over the coming years, as these technologies will result in lower input use. Regarding Europe, the adoption of precision agriculture due to its large and diverse agricultural production, its supportive environmental policy and its strong ag tech ecosystems are expected to leap ahead.

This will have a disruptive effect on long term fertilizer use, causing it to decline." As more and more farmers save on fertilizer by only applying what is necessary according to soil samples, lower sales will make the fertilizer market more competitive, hopefully resulting in lower prices for the end user. This is done without compromising crop yield. Speak to your GROMOR REPS including René who is employed by TWK and based at the Gromor office. They can supply accurate bulk blends of macro and micro nutrients from 4 tons and up.

At the end of the day I would advise fertilizing accurately according to soil analysis, applying minimum tillage & break crops to build soil organic matter to above 2 ½ % (1,5 %C)

INTERVEINAL CHLOROSIS IN CONTAINER PLANTS AND SEEDLINGS

In the colder months, container growing media temperatures can drop below 15°C, which can in turn cause Interveinal Chlorosis.

It is especially prevalent when the cold is coupled with a growing media Ph exceeding 6,4. Whilst difficult to pinpoint the exact element causing the problem, plant deficiencies of Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn) and Zinc (Zn) cause interveinal Chlorosis in the younger leaves and Magnesium (Mg) in the older leaves. Deficiency symptoms can occur even when soil levels are adequate if the pH and EC are not correct.

Where to, if you experience this problem?

1. Try to move containers to a location where exposure to extreme cold is avoided e.g. where they will get plenty of sun as well as protection from excessive shade or cold southerly winds. Also try to provide some overhead protection at night.
2. Don't overwater, especially in the afternoon, as this will leave a cold wet growing medium overnight.
3. Apply a complete foliar spray, given as a fine mist in the warmth of the day when leaves are dry.
4. Root feed with a hydroponic solution that has been acidified through adding 125mℓ of Nitric Acid per 1000ℓ water, before adding the soluble fertilizer. For the commercial grower.

1 Kg GROMOR NEW GENERATION COASTAL BLEND

1 Kg GROMOR CALMAG N

per 1000ℓ water

DO NOT add the above fertilizers together in CONCENTRATED form, as this will result in precipitation of the phosphate and calcium, with a reduction in plant availability of nutrients.

Put the one into the "end" tank first and when dissolved, put the other bag in.

NB: These fertilizers contain the full range of both macro and micro elements in ratios available to plants.

For the home gardener, add a cup of vinegar per 5L WATER, rather than Nitric Acid, which can be dangerous to handle. To the acidified water, add 1g/ℓ (1 Tspoon/5ℓ water of **GROMOR 3.1.3 (37) WS COMPLETE**. Give a good watering with this once a week.

NB:

1. Don't overdo the fertilizing once the plants come right. Dropping the pH too low (under 5) can lead to Manganese and Aluminium toxicity which shows up as interveinal chlorosis and Potassium lock up, which shows up as a yellowing along the edge of the leaves.
2. Don't confuse a general "paling" of leaves (particularity down the midrib) due to nitrogen deficiency, with the above.

If the "wheels are coming off" with your container growing, invest in a pH and EC meter.

Before filling pots check the pH & EC of the potting medium.

1. Fill a cup of the proposed container medium and empty it into a container.
2. Fill the same cup with water and empty it into the same container as the medium.
3. Mix and allow to stand for 20 minutes
4. Strain the contents (a coffee bodum is useful at this stage.)
5. If the EC is under 2.2 *ms* and above 1,2 *ms* its "all systems go"
6. If under 1.2 *ms*, water with the proposed nutrient solution daily until it comes right.
7. If the pH exceeds 6 use an acidified nutrient solution (125mℓ nitric acid / 1000ℓ water.) when making up the nutrient solution.

All GROMOR growing media (e.g. POTTING MEDIUM, SEEDLINGMIX, GROWING MEDIUM etc) are pre-enriched and should be within these specs.

After filling containers and starting to grow, take weekly LEACHATE measurements from containers.

1. If leachate EC exceeds 2*ms* increase watering frequency and volume to ensure regular leachate through containers.
2. If EC is below 1.2 *ms* decrease watering.

INTENSIVE GROWERS ASSOC SYMPOSIUM (IGA)

The IGA will be holding their spring/summer symposium at Cedara college on the 19th July 2018.
Contact Johan Van Veenendal @ 082 653 0365 or email iga@sai.co.za

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. Hagen

PS. Mark Zuckerberg the founder of "Facebook" says we make our lives too complicated and with it wasting precious time. As an example, he wears the same T-shirt and jeans every day with no wasting time on: "what should I wear today"? I'm a bit like that with jeans. I have 4 pairs of "Levi's". Levi Strauss is incidentally one of the oldest companies in the USA having been started in 1853.

PPS. With the plague of ants that we've been experiencing, you will be interested to know that the world's largest colony of ants was found in Europe. It measured 6000km long and spanned from near the Atlantic coast of Spain to N. Italy.