

GROMOR JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

The hypocentre of an atomic bomb is the point on the ground above which it is detonated. At Hiroshima that was 680 metres above ground level. Two atom bombs were dropped on Japan at the close of the 2nd World War. The above, plus a plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 3 day later at. As an aside, one pound(±500g) of uranium delivers the same amount of energy as ±1000 tons of coal.

For the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima 64 kg of uranium was used with less than 1 kg having undergone nuclear fusion with 0.7gms converted to energy – this destroyed a city! There is an incredible amount of energy locked up in this earth of ours! (Seven Elements that have changed the World by John Browne)

ENERGY- RSA

Where S.A. still has not got out of the “starting blocks” is in the use of “natural gas” extracted from the ground. Fracking is one method of extraction, but not the only one. It is estimated that close to half of the USA’s energy requirements come from natural gas, with ± a third used for electricity production.

With Zuma seemingly single handedly signing an agreement with Putin for Russia to supply the equipment & technology to build more and bigger nuclear reactors, it came as a relief when Ramaphosa put his foot down and said simply that we could not afford it.

AGRICULTURE

Agricultures role in the national economy must never be underestimated. In 2017 it contributed ± 33% to national GDP which far exceeded the electricity and mining sectors contribution of under 10% each. What is exciting about the agricultural sector is the scope for improvement. It does however not need political rhetoric about land claims without compensation, unrealistic minimum wages and ongoing farm murders.

Most farmers have accepted minimum tillage and “break” crops as a means to increase soil health, but fertilizing according to soil analysis, still holds scope for improvement. Speak to René who works for TWK and is based at the Gromor factory on the N3/Richmond Road.

Both organic and inorganic nutrients combine to feed soil micro-organisms which in turn supply plant food nutrients. For example, over 95% of soil nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorous are made available through the mineralisation of soil organic matter by micro-organisms

GARDEN INSECTS

Ants are usually looked upon as pests in the garden, whereas in actual fact they can be quite useful. Their nests help ventilate the soil and counteract acidity, whilst they feed on many insect pests, notably caterpillar larvae and fruit fly maggots.

Bees we all know are diligent plant pollinators. With bee populations dropping alarmingly, we need to protect them and so ensure fruit, veg and flower pollination.

Hoverflies, the odd wasp shaped little insects are natural beneficial predators that significantly contribute towards the maintenance of a healthy garden. The hoverfly preys on scale insects like mealie bugs and mites, whilst their larvae eat aphids, codling moth larvae, caterpillars and slugs.

Nature is often deceptive. The apply named Lacewing with its beautiful, gauzy, iridescent wings and huge golden eyes is actually one of the gardens most efficient assassins. In a single season the larvae of a single female can eat over 13 million aphids in most savage fashion.

SEED SOWING AND WINTER GARDENING

1. Flowers

Until the beginning of spring in August, limit sowing to the area from Pietermaritzburg to the coast, planting the following varieties: Alyssum, Anthurium, Dianthus, Larkspur, Lobelia, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia and Phlox.

2. Vegies

Lettuce, Spinach, Cabbage, Leeks, Broccoli and Peas.

What is more important in June and July, is to neaten up the garden and service equipment to be ready for the coming spring and summer. Prune back summer flowering shrubs.

It's never the wrong time to compost. GROMOR COMPOST is available in 15dm³ 30dm³, 60dm³ bags and in bulk. As a guide use 1 x 30dm³ bag per 5m² to 10m² and 1 x 60dm³ bag to 20cm². When planting dig in GROMOR ECCELERATOR (150g/m²- 1 cup/m²) together with the compost.

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. Hagen

PS: From our boss Warren. "I was at our local Builder's Warehouse purchasing a few bags of GROMOR POTTING SOIL. As I waited in line to pay for my bags, the guy behind me spoke up; "are you going to do some planting?" I turned to him and with a very serious face said no; "I am buying back my land one bag at a time and getting a receipt this time." The shocked look on his face was priceless".

PSS: An employee to his boss. "We're doing a heavy house clearing at home tomorrow and my wife needs me to help her move some of the bigger stuff from the attic to the garage. To this the boss replies "we're short staffed here, I can't give you the day off". "Thanks boss" says the employee. "I knew I could count on you!!" 😊