



GROMOR (PTY) LTD

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GROMOR MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

The hypocentre of an atomic bomb is the point on the ground above which the atomic bomb is detonated. At Hiroshima that point was 680 metres above ground i.e. unlike conventional bombs, the atom bomb does not hit the ground before it explodes.

Two atom bombs were dropped on Japan at the close of the 2nd World War. The second one was plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 3 days later than the first one at Hiroshima. As an aside, one pound ($\pm 500\text{g}$) 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 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. It is estimated that close to half of USA’s energy requirements come from natural gas with \pm a third used for electricity production. After Zuma affair with Putin and the signing of agreements for SA to continue building nuclear reactors, it was a relief to hear Ramaphosa putting his foot down and saying no sorry we simply cannot afford it.

AGRICULTURE

Agricultures role in the national economy must never be underestimated. In 2017 it contributed \pm 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 mean to increase soil health but fertilizing according to soil analysis; still holds scope for improvement. Speak to Rene 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 organic soil matters.

INSECTS

Insect numbers are dwindling, with serious implications for farmers growing insect pollinated crops. Vulnerable species include not only butterflies, wild bees and moths, but indications are that there has been an all-round significant percentage of the insect biomass lost with almost the entire flying sector having been wiped out over the past few decades. If not already so, this will negatively affect insect pollinated fruit in the near future. What has been particularly noticeable to me is not so much the bees and moths, but the butterflies? As a kid I remember regular “flights” of beautifully coloured butterflies, whilst today months can go by without seeing a single butterfly!

VEGGIES AND HERBS

Veggies and herbs are reputed to do better in the cooler months that lie ahead, than they do over the hot summer months. With very few exceptions one should however avoid planting in the shade.

When preparing “beds” dig in GROMOR COMPOST (1 x 30dm³/10m² to 15m² or 1 x 60dm³ bag/20m²) This reduces soil acidity and improves chemical binding agents, humus and carbohydrates, through the composted organic matter. In addition, beneficial fungal hyphae are also stimulated.

Winter veggies include beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onions, beans, carrots, peas, radish, turnips and spinach. Winter herbs include chives, dill, fennel, tarragon, marjoram, mint (a summer and winter weed!) oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme.

SCAVANGING- CATTLES NATURAL INSTINCT

Cattle, sheep and goats are scavengers and whilst genetic selection has played a major role in breeding them ever bigger, this has not improved their scavenging abilities. Smaller animals, non-protein nitrogen licks and high density, short duration grazing, lends itself very well to ruminants. Applying these principals favour the production of grass-fed beef sought after by the high value global markets.

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. Hagen

PS: From our boss today, I was at our local builder’s warehouse purchasing a few bags of GROMOR POTTING SOIL. As I waited in the line to pay for my bags, a 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 need me to help move some of the bigger stuff from the attic and 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!