

GROMOR DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

I'm often asked why, when we have specifically formulated products (e.g. GROMOR LAWN DRESSING and 4.1.1 (21) lawn fertilizer) do we give the general recommendation of applying 1 x 30dm³ GROMOR COMPOST/5m²-10m² and 150g GROMOR ACCELERATOR organic fertilizer pellets per 1m².

Quite honestly, without knowing the soil type and having a soil analysis, it's impossible to give an exact recommendation using products specifically formulated for the plants growth habits. In the case of grass, where one is looking for active vegetative growth, the specifically formulated products will be slightly better, but both will work.

DROUGHT

I hope that it's broken by the time you read this!! I also hope that we all have become aware of just how dry SA can be. Who would ever have thought of water restrictions in Eastern KZN, between the Coast and Drakensberg! In October, ENCA reported that already ±30 000 head of cattle had died due to drought, in KZN alone!

I again get onto my hobby horse - conserve Soil Organic Matter and you will be less effected by the ravages of drought.

Remember that 100kg of soil with 4% SOIL ORGANIC MATTER (SOM) holds ±180ℓ of WATER, whilst the same amount of soil with 2% SOM holds just ±60ℓ water. Very few of our agricultural soils today have even 2% SOM, with 1% to 1½ % being more common.

SOM is conserved by minimising tilling (digging) and not burning plant residues in the field, veld or gardens. Whilst impractical in farming, MULCHING, will improve matters considerably in the garden - GROMOR PINEBARK MULCH. On the farm (or for that matter in the garden) incorporating a ley (green manure crop) can have a very beneficial effect on SOM, as well as supply plant food nutrients for the following crop.

Drought unfortunately speeds up the negative effects to our soils, if steps are not taken to protect SOM together with soil life.

From Dr. Aubrey Venter's book, "The advantages and benefits of No-till". (RH: Which greatly benefits SOM).

- SA loses an estimated 300million tons of soil per annum. (equal to 10 mill by 30 ton Interlink trucks!)
- On the common KZN Inanda soil, over a 10 year period, the annual average soil loss was 7,1 tons/ha, which is 4 times greater than at which it can be replaced!
- Due to silting, Hazelmere dam lost ±20% of it's capacity in 12 years and Shongweni dam is all but silted up.

INTENSIVE GROWERS ASSOCIATION (IGA)

IGA holds two interesting Symposia per annum – one aimed at agriculture and the other at horticulture. Please diarise the 17th March 2016 where the theme will be, “Integrated Biological and Inorganic pathways for maximum yield”. Held at Cedara, it will hold interest for both “croppers” and horticulturalists.

FERTILIZERS OVER XMAS CLOSE DOWN

Whilst most nurseries, gardeners and farmers will survive if they run out of regularly used GROMOR products for a short while, it can be a catastrophe for HYDROPONIC farmers if they run out of their standard water soluble fertilizers. If you are into hydroponics, make sure to have sufficient hydroponic fertilizer in stock to last you over closedown

GROMOR New Generation Coastal Blend
GROMOR 3.1.3(37) ws Complete (Plant Food)
GROMOR Calmag N+ Trace Elements
Calmag N (AQUASOL)

SEEDLING GROWERS should also ensure that they have adequate GROMOR SEEDLING MIX, to keep their production schedules on track.

It's time to wish everyone a happy Christmas and thank you for your support over the year. Collin and his team try continuously to make GROMOR a better company to deal with. Please help us in our endeavours to improve GROMOR, by letting us know when things go right, as well as when our service slips.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING:
LAST WORKING DAY 18 DECEMBER 2015
OPENNING NEW YEAR 4 JANUARY 2015

Regards,
GROMOR (PTY) LTDS

R. HAGEN

PS: Having just turned 75, I couldn't resist this one, which has been featured before in GROMOR Newsletters.

What is success?

At 4 it's not peeing in your pants

At 12 it's having friends

At 18 it's having a drivers licence

At 21 it's having sex

At 35 it's having money

At 50 it's having money

At 60 it's having sex

At 70 it's having a drivers licence

At 75 it's having friends

At 80 it's not peeing in your pants..... (LOL from Angel)

PPS: Three guys were standing fishing at a river mouth.

First guy: "I'm only here because my insurance company paid me out in full when my Service Station burned down"

Second guy: "I'm only here because my insurance company paid me out in full, when my house with all its contents burned down"

Third guy: "I'm only here because my insurance company paid me out in full for damages when my farm got flooded"

First guy: "how on earth do you start a flood?!"