

GROMOR APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

CLEAN COOK WOOD STOVE

Last month I told you about south African born IT wizard Elon Musk, who following his passion to contribute towards making earth a “cleaner” planet, developed the high performance Tesla car, powered by clean renewable electric energy.

This month we take a step back in technology and dwell on the achievements of local innovator Adrian Padt, who together with his friend and business partner Mike Carrmali designed and built a “clean cook” stove, capable of reducing air pollution and slowing down climate damage.

There are allegedly around 3 billion people in the world who still rely on wood for cooking fuel. Much of this undergoes incomplete combustion, with the smoke and fumes being both a health hazard and contributing to atmospheric pollution, whilst with the “Clean Cook” stove, one gets near complete combustion (97% claimed).

In 2013 Adrian literally “took the bull by the horns” and with a prototype of his stove, attended a United Nations Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves in Cambodia, where he presented it to ±1500 delegates, including names like Hillary Clinton, Julia Roberts, Angelina Jolie-Pitt, Bill Gate and others. They were astounded at its simplicity and effectiveness and the fact that it could be moved and carried by hand was a big advantage.

His first sizable order came from the UN in 2014 – 38 000 stoves destined for distribution in South Sudan! With an order like that and hopefully more to follow after having won the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s emerging exporter of the year award in 2015, a production line has obviously been necessary. Now manufactured by Rocket Works, it sells under the name of the Zama Zama stove.

What an achievement by someone whose school friends watched in fascination, speculating on what next Adrian would build with his ruler, paper clips, rubber bands etc. In his own words “I just could never stop building stuff.”

Extracted from an article by Colleen Dargan, Natal Mercury 9/3/16. For more information, go to www.rocketworks.org

PS: It would be interesting coupling the Zama Zama clean cook stove, with “Hot Box” cookers, which are in essence insulated boxes into which one fits a hot cooking pot. The insulation makes for very slow dissipation of heat, allowing for cooking to continue for hours without adding more heat energy.

ORGANICS – Neglect it at your peril

Too many gardeners come in saying that they have this or the other obscure element deficiency in their garden and how can they correct it.

Frankly, in a blisteringly hot summer like we have just experienced, plants show up the most obscure symptoms which may show some semblance, but be totally unrelated to a particular macro or micro element deficiency.

Most of the poor growth is caused by:

- The heat we’ve experienced this summer
- Lack of water
- Excessive application of fertilizer.
- Insufficient compost causing a drop of soil organic matter (SOM) below the critical 2½%, reducing the soil’s water holding capacity which is nothing short of a catastrophe in hot dry periods like we’ve experienced this summer.

In the garden, I cannot stress the advantages of COMPOST enough.

Not only does it supply the full range of MACRO and MICRO elements, it also stimulates SOIL LIFE and improves CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY i.e. the ability of the soil to hold nutrients and in this way prevent them from leaching down to the subsoil – hence preventing subsoil acidity, which if allowed to happen, stops root penetration into the lower soil regions, greatly reducing nutrient and water uptake from the lower reaches. FEWER ROOTS = LESSER UPTAKE.

In the garden there is often a tendency to OVER apply FERTILIZERS and UNDER apply COMPOST.

With fertilizers the reasoning goes – “if 30g/m² Urea is recommended for the lawn in spring and autumn (often recommended, but already too high), then 60g/m² in spring, summer and autumn must be twice as effective”. Not true!! It will do much more harm than good.

Compost, is often looked upon as too bulky and with it's low nutrient value, one need only use fertilizer and do away with compost. Also not true!!

The complete range of macro and micro nutrients in compost, plus it's ability to improve the water holding capacity, whilst improving soil life and with it health, are invaluable!

Rather than fiddling with trying to apply minute amounts of MICRO NUTRIENTS, apply a manure based compost like GROMOR COMPOST with GROMOR ACCELERATOR ORGANIC FERTILIZER PELLETS when PLANTING.

1 x 30dm³ bag of GROMOR COMPOST/5m² to 10m². Buying a 5m³ Bulk load of SCREENED GROMOR COMPOST for R270 plus transport, is very good value for money. Speak to Angel or Nellie for a delivered price. Use 5m³ to cover 500m² to 1000m² and unlike fertilizers, over application is not serious. GROMOR ACCELERATOR 150g/m².

A 5m³ BULK TRUCK WILL FIT COMFORTABLY INTO A STANDARD DRIVEWAY

Regards,

GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. HAGEN

PS: a girl brings her theology student boyfriend home to introduce him to her parents for the first time. Her father, knowing full well what is going on in his beloved daughter's mind, takes the boy aside to ask him some pertinent questions.

“Do you have any income?”. To this the boy replies: “no, but God will solve that problem for me.”

“Do you have accommodation?” Student; “no, but God will provide!”

“I note that you are relying on my daughter's transport. Don't you have a car?” Student, “no, but God will provide!”

After a few more questions to which the boy gives the same reply, they return to the company of the mother and daughter and shortly thereafter the daughter and boyfriend leave. The bubbling mother cannot wait to ask her husband what he thinks about the lad. When she finally does, her husband looks pensively at her. “He's a nice enough guy, but I don't think he's very bright mistaking me for God!”