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GROMOR JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

Whilst it's great to see the number of black people that are moving up into the middle class, 85% of them still remain poor, as opposed to just 13% of whites. In a democracy where the majority rules this cannot last, but predicting the future, I leave to you! I am well into my 70's now and can never remember times being secure in South Africa.

I do get frustrated when I see the amount of time and money wasted on talk shops that yield virtually nothing. Job creation is one of the favourite topics that we know the answer to, but cannot face the consequences of applying. If the "powers that be" are really unsure, send them to China, India or South Korea and see how it's done there to be competitive in the world market, which is vital for job creation.

How's this one creating employment. As a kid in his pre-teens MOZIAH BRIDGES was unhappy about the selection of bow-ties available for his age group, so he approached his grandmother to teach him how to sew and began to make his own bow-ties. Being noticed and commented on by other people he started selling them. Today Moziah Bridges, at the age of 12 years, is the CEO of MO's Bows a \$150,000 business built up in 3years. It currently employs 5 people who design, make and sell bow-ties!

PRICES:

GROMOR, which certainly does its fair share in creating employment, finds itself in the position of having to increase prices. The date set is 1 July 2015 - regular customers will be notified directly.

"SOIL HOMEOPATHY" or a serious contender

Attending a symposium and workshop on Soil Humus and Beneficial Soil Microbes in May, brought back memories of a "paper" by Martin Fey, a Stellenbosch Soil Science Professor who was at that time derogatory about the use of "biologicals" in agriculture.

Whilst the data presented at these meetings was impressive, with the exception "of soil organic matter" being maintained at a good level (>2½% if possible), I cannot see the application of pure biological practices being able to maintain the production levels required in today's world. This does not imply that I reject "biologicals." Apply them wherever possible, but always be aware that intervention with inorganic fertilizers and insect and fungal sprays will probably be necessary at times.

I know that the suppliers of "organic" remedies often say, that "breaking the chain" by the intervening with inorganics undoes the good that has been built up, I'm afraid that only you can be the judge in your situation! All I say is please keep an open mind and ensure that what you finally do is based on actual research data and not simply hearsay!

"Feeding" your plants in WINTER.

Don't expect much response from fertilizing from now through to spring (September), when we can expect our first ±20mm of rain.

This does however not give you the right to sit back and expect the garden to take care of itself!

1. You can always apply a dressing of GROMOR COMPOST (1 x 30dm³ bag/5m² to 10m²) together with a slow release fertilizer like GROMOR ACCELERATOR organic fertilizer pellets at 150g/m².
Dig Compost and Accelerator lightly into ground if possible.

2. Our KZN soils are naturally acid, which regular over fertilizing (specifically Nitrogen N - the first number in a compound fertilizer e.g. the 4 in 4.1.1(21) or straight LAN or UREA) further increases.

Apply GROMOR LIME, which is dolomitic lime, containing the major plant foods calcium and magnesium, to counteract soil acidity. Keep it in mind that because lime does not move down through the soil profile like most other nutrients do, it needs to be dug in as deeply as is practically possible.

Maintaining Soil Organic Matter (SOM) levels over 2½% through NO-TILL, COMPOSTING or adding crop residues to the soil and NOT over fertilizing with Nitrogen (N), all help in preventing soil acidification.

Do NOT apply lime to soils growing ACID LOVING plants like Azaleas or Hydrangeas. They can be fed their calcium requirements through an application of GYPSUM (100g/m²). As a “treat”, give acid loving plants a dressing of 50g aluminium sulphate/m²

GYPSUM (Calcium Sulphate) is an interesting product that could probably be used a lot more than it is, with good results.

- a) It supplies calcium and sulphur, both important plant foods.
 - b) It does not change soil pH.
 - c) Unlike AGRIC and DOLOMITIC lime which virtually stays where one applies it, GYPSUM is slowly leached down the soil profile, making the calcium and sulphur available to the deeper roots.
3. It's always the right time to apply GROMOR PINEBARK MULCH to cover open ground in plant beds. In addition to conserving moisture, it makes for a more stable environment for beneficial soil organisms which break down soil organic matter to “life giving” humus.

Regards,

GROMOR (PTY) LTD

R. HAGEN

PS: After a particularly poor round of golf a popular club member decided to skip his regular visit to the clubhouse. Walking dejectedly to the parking lot, a policeman stopped him and asked; “did you tee off on the 16th hole about 20 minute ago?” To this the golfer replied; “yes! How did you know?”

Well said the policeman very seriously, “your ball flew out on the highway and crashed through a drivers windscreen, sending his car out of control and smashing into five other vehicles, including a fire engine on its way to an emergency fire, preventing it from reaching a burning building in time and causing it to burn down! What are you going to do about this??!!”

After giving it very careful thought the golfer responded; “I think I'll close my stance a little and tighten my grip in future.”