

Latest in the Flower Industry

QUALITY FLOWER PRODUCTION

Quality is a paramount issue in flower production. Proper nutrition is one major key factor needed for quality production. Proper nutrition can lead to more flowers per plant, bigger heads, better appearance, true colours, better keeping quality, longer postharvest life, etc.

Proper nutrition is not to be confused with generous over-feeding. Likewise, proper nutrition should not only take into account the requirement of the crop, but also be able to do this while building and improving the soils cropping ability. Unfortunately, in many instances cropping is associated with soil degradation. Recently, there has been a push for sustainability. A more positive way of thinking regards the soil as a priceless asset and focuses on its improvement, while cropping, and not just passive sustenance.

Today's grower has to work under professional guidance. A lot has been said recently about balanced nutrition, but little is done to achieve it. Balanced nutrition can only be achieved when all nutrients are looked at simultaneously. The old methods of interpreting analytical data regard one mineral at a time and this is unable to take interactions and lock-ups into account.

IMPORTANCE OF SOIL FERTILITY AND SOIL PREPARATION

The best results from fertiliser use are obtained on the basis of a high fertility level. Soils differ widely in their ability to meet plant requirements; most of which have only a moderate natural soil fertility, but can be considerably improved by soil amendments.

A highly productive soil, with high fertility does the following:-

- * mobilises soil nutrients from the reserves
- * transforms fertiliser nutrients into easily available forms
- * stores water-soluble nutrients in easily available forms, thus preventing leaching

- * offers the plants a balanced nutrient supply due to its self regulating system
- * And most importantly; Does not 'fix' nutrients (ie, lock them up, or convert them into an unavailable form.

**Unfortunately, such a soil does not exist!!
So what do you do?**

****USE MOBILIZER!****

It reduces the precipitation of Phosphorus, mobilises Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium and Trace elements.

It increases the availability of Macro and Micro nutrients by increasing the permeability of the cell membrane.

It increases the Chlorophyll content of the leaves, hence better leaf colour.

It is a buffer and **can be used on all soils**, regardless of the pH. It is known to aid in leaching Sodium out of the soil. It can also be used as a foliar spray.

It is totally organic and environmentally friendly.

****SUITABLE FOR NATIVES!****

The most pronounced effects of **Mobilizer** are obtained when using it in **early season soil treatments (NOW for winter crops)** followed with **post emergence foliar sprays**. (Ask supplier for recommended rates of use)

This product has shown outstanding results in all field trials and is a must for growers to optimise soil and plant productivity. **Apply it now and all throughout the growing season for the best results. Many growers swear by it!!!**



THE LATEST ON *TRICHODERMA* IN FLOWER PRODUCTION

Recently there has been a lot of hype around the use of *Trichoderma* as an alternative to chemical control on many detrimental fungi. Good Fruit and Vegetables (January issue) mentions the effective use of *Trichoderma spp* as beneficial soil inoculants as well as a feasible method of biological control.

Tri-D25 is a beneficial soil inoculant, with two strains of *Trichoderma spp*. (*Trichoderma koningii* and *Trichoderma harzianum*.)

TRI-D25 is totally safe to humans, animals and plants, and has root competence and fungicide resistance. **TRI-D25** fungi live, multiply, and will sharply increase beneficial microbial population around root zone.

TRI-D25 is a naturally occurring saprophytic soil fungus, it has antagonistic and growth inhibitory properties towards a wide spectrum of soil borne pathogens.

****SUITABLE FOR NATIVES!****



TRI-D25 can be applied to:-

- 1 cuttings
- 2 seeds,
- 3 transplants,
- 4 bulbs,
- 5 grafts,
- 6 compost,
- 7 pots, and,
- 8 established crops.

It can also be sprayed onto crops, and is beneficial to increase callusing of wounds.



Top: Wild *Trichoderma* strain which occurs naturally in soil. This strain does not colonize the surface of roots.

Bottom: Special strain of *Trichoderma* in **TRI-D25**. This strain colonizes the surface of roots.

Tri-D25 has shown promising results in all major industries, especially on flowers, grapes and veggies.

Using Tri-D25 has shown many rewards; better seed germination, increased survival rates, abundant root proliferation, improved growth and vigour, healthier plants, early flowering, more flowers, more fruit setting and accordingly, higher yields of higher quality.

Trichoderma spp. may enhance flowering either by shortening the days to flowering or by increasing the number of flowers. Use at a rate of 1kg/ha for all crops. (Do not use on mushrooms!!)

For more information about Tri-D25 and its uses, contact your local supplier.

WHAT TO SUPPLY THAT WINTER GROWTH WITH?

Biomim BOOSTER V: An important product for flower growers as it will supply the necessary trace elements required for winter growth. It will promote healthier plants that are less susceptible to insect and disease attack. It will help balance the nutrient status of the plants. A **MUST with every flush of growth!**

****SUITABLE FOR NATIVES!****

'FERTILE' VEGGIE AND FLOWER MIX (10-10-23)

FERTILE is a totally soluble **COMPLETE** fertiliser designed for fertigation systems.

FERTILE is specially formulated to give young crops a strong head start. It is an ideal fertiliser for cut flowers, bedding plants, ornamentals, shrubs, field crops, greenhouse veggies, turf, vineyards and fruit orchards.

FERTILE has high amounts of soluble Potassium and Phosphorus. This makes it ideal for use during Phosphorus stress periods in Summer and Winter.

******Look out for other issues of ZADCO NEWS featuring important Research findings and Products******

ZADCO NEWS

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