

Seaweed I

I refer to your appeal on page 3 of your January 1972 issue for comments from anyone who has used the soil conditioner and fertiliser, S.M.3.

Dear Sir,

This Company operates a number of separate divisions including one concerned with golf course construction, namely V.E.B. Golf Course Construction and one on the establishment of vegetation on sterile and poor soils, namely V.E.B. Landscape Reclamation Ltd. S.M.3 has been widely used primarily by the latter Company for the vegetating of soils with a poor structure but our experience leads us to believe that it could well be useful on the areas suggested by you, that is, sports grounds on clay soils. It is our experience that the material appears to be effective by promoting vigorous growth not only of the grass sward but primarily of soil micro organisms. Thus soils of poor structure and low organic content are encouraged to develop into suitable sward bearing media. The fertiliser is not only responsible for soil structure improvement primarily through the growth of micro organisms but also supplies a full range of trace element fertilisers for green plant growth.

As mentioned above, this group's experience with this material has chiefly been through the land reclamation division. However, our golf course construction company is always interested in utilising new substances where they are of benefit and should a suitable occasion occur in the future, no doubt this material will be employed. Should such an occasion occur, I shall write to you again describing our experiences.

Yours faithfully,

T. F. Risely.

Seaweed II

George Wilson, from Paris, has also sent us a pamphlet describing the advantages of French seaweed. The 'algues marines' are however said to improve plant health to such an extent that fungicides and insecticides often become superfluous. It gets better and better. Otherwise the French stuff does everything you would expect of a British seaweed but will set you back about 12 francs for a 1 cwt or £10 for a cubic metre.

Seaweed III

If you want to know all about S.M.3, the English product, write to Mr. W. Finch.

Seaweed IV

We still do not seem to have any FACTS or EXPERIENCE about this stuff. Why not? But this is what Maxicrop Limited of Holdenby, Northampton, have to say about their product. They are clearly quite confident of the benefits.

'Maxicrop Liquefied Seaweed is excellent for Golf Greens. The growth promoting hormones present encourage an extensive root system which will help the grass stay green during dry weather by reaching the moisture at a lower soil level.

'One of the main advantages is that Maxicrop does not scorch so can be used as a tonic when a quick pick-me-up is necessary. This is particularly useful for matches and competitions. As it is immediately absorbed, it can be applied at any time during the season with no interruption of play, and is compatible with the usual selective weed-killers. It also gives a degree of resistance to fungal diseases.

'Maxicrop plus 17% Nitrogen can be used to encourage a newly sown sward.

'Maxicrop is not extracted from seaweed—it is seaweed broken down by a special hydrolytic process. All the trace elements and other properties of seaweed are, therefore, retained. Alginic acid, which is extracted from seaweed for various medicinal uses and for human food, is also present and has been recognised for many years as a valuable soil conditioner. Not only does it help to break up clay soils, but also helps to bind together light soils so that they hold more moisture and more nutrients.

Maxicrop is an organic substance. It provides a good medium in which soil bacteria

can flourish. When these are prolific they also maintain a good soil structure and release nutrients already present so that they are available to the plant.

'Very limy soils can lock up trace elements such as Iron, Magnesium and Manganese, causing severe chlorosis. Maxicrop, complexed with 1% Iron, can usually clear up these troubles, but for very severe cases use Maxicrop complexed with Iron, Magnesium and Manganese. These elements are in chelated form and are immediately available to the plant. Any other element can be chelated with Maxicrop to order. The other elements present in Maxicrop ensure a correct mineral balance.'

Finally a list of 'contents' which varies from batch to batch but does not seem to have much missing.

TYPICAL ANALYSIS

TOTAL SOLIDS	8.5%		
containing:			
ORGANIC matter	51.2%	Magnesia (MgO)	0.58%
INORGANIC matter	43.6%	Lime (CaO)	0.44%
Nitrogen (N)	0.72%	Iron (Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.34%
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	2.0%	Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	0.23%
Potash (K ₂ O)	3.0%	Copper	40 p.p.m.
Sulphate (SO ₃)	6.1%	Cobalt	4 p.p.m.
Chloride (Cl)	6.7%	Nickel	24 p.p.m.
Silica (SiO ₂)	0.2%	Zinc	100 p.p.m.
Iodine (I)	0.9%	Molybdenum	10 p.p.m.
Bromine (Br)	0.8%	Manganese	40 p.p.m.
Soda (Na ₂ O)	18.9%	Boron	1 p.p.m.

Also traces of: vanadium, titanium, gold, silver, chromium, caesium, rubidium, ruthenium, rhenium, selenium, beryllium, lithium, tungsten, etc.

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