



THE BENEFITS OF KELP AS FERTILIZER

The immediate benefit obtained from kelp can be attributed to the release of auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins. These plant growth hormones, required in small quantities, are essential for cell division and cell elongation, basic functions of plant growth. Increased levels of plant hormones can result in enhanced seed germination, early emergence, stimulated root and shoot growth, increased fruit set and decreased fruit drop.

When used as a fertilizer supplement, kelp is an excellent source of chelated minerals necessary for proper plant growth. Kelp meal acts as a slow release fertilizer, slowly breaking down and releasing its nutrients. The potential benefit of a kelp fertilizer supplement increases each year as it contributes to the soil organic matter.

KELP AS A SOIL CONDITIONER

Soil organic matter and associated soil algae, bacteria and fungi play an important role in soil fertility and plant nutrient uptake. The application of kelp meal acts as a soil conditioner by stimulating microbial activity. Good soil structure improves aeration, available moisture and makes the soil more workable. The repeated use of kelp meal helps maintain soil fertility and structure that would otherwise be depleted through the utilization of nutrients by plants.

FERTILIZER MIXES

The addition of kelp meal in a fertilizer mix complements the other components of the blend by providing essential micronutrients in a readily available chelated form.

Kelp meal also has a high concentration of organic matter. The ability of kelp meal to supply this organic matter, readily available chelated nutrients, and soil conditioning properties make it a valuable addition to any fertilizer mix.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The following application rates are approximate and may vary depending on the climactic region, soil type and soil fertility:

- Field – 200 to 400 lbs. per acre
- Row – 20 lbs. per 100 feet
- Orchards – 1 lb. per inch of tree diameter
- Compost – 6 oz. per cubit foot
- Turf – 10 lbs. per 1,000 square feet
- Seedbed - ½ to 1 lb. per 100 square feet
- Potting Mixes – 2 to 3 % of total volume
- Bedding Plants – 1 oz. per tray
- Fertilizer Mixes – 5 to 10% of total volume

