



GRANULOCK[®]

Granulock[®] SS and Granulock[®] Z

Sulfur and Zinc enriched planting fertilisers for grain, forage and cotton crops

A planting fertiliser that supplies phosphorus (P) and starter nitrogen (N) is essential for grain, forage and cotton in Australia's inland cropping areas. MAP (Monoammonium Phosphate) is a popular choice. However, there are times when other nutrients, such as sulfur (S), and the micronutrient (trace element) zinc (Zn) need to be applied. In these circumstances, the sulfur and zinc enriched Granulock[®] SS and Granulock[®] Z are options. Their analysis is:

Product	Analysis			
	% N	% P	% S	% Zn
MAP	10.0	21.9	1.5	
Granulock [®] SS	10.0	17.5	12.0	
Granulock [®] Z	11.0	21.8	4.0	1.0

The sulfur and zinc are added during the manufacturing process to create uniform fully granulated compound fertilisers.

The sulfur in Granulock[®] SS is present in two forms – 8% as elemental sulfur and 4% as sulfate. The sulfate (SO₄) is immediately available for plant root uptake, once the fertiliser granules dissolve in the soil. The elemental sulfur must first be converted to the sulfate form in the soil, before it is of use to plants. This process is performed by *Thiobacillus* bacteria.

Granulock[®] SS may also be used for pasture establishment, and when over-sowing or direct drilling into existing pasture. The nitrogen assists in the establishment of grasses and may help legumes in the first few weeks before their roots are properly nodulated, and they become self-sufficient in meeting their own nitrogen requirements.

Sulfur (S)

Sulfur is more likely to be needed in fertiliser programs for high sulfur demanding crops such as canola, and to a lesser extent, pulses. Cereal crops are less likely to need sulfur.

The main reserve of sulfur in most soils is the soil organic matter, so sulfur is most likely to be needed on soils low in organic matter. In some inland cropping areas, sulfur may be present as gypsum accretions at depth in the sub-soil.

If the topsoil is low in organic matter, some starter sulfur at planting can assist in establishment and the early growth stages, until such time that the crop roots grow into and can access the sulfur that is present deeper into the soil profile. High analysis fertilisers such as Anhydrous Ammonia (Big N), Urea, DAP and MAP either do not contain or are low in sulfur.

Higher crop yields and the adoption of reduced tillage practices which conserve soil organic matter and reduce its rate of mineralization have also contributed to the increased need to apply sulfur in fertiliser programs.

Zinc (Zn)

Along with molybdenum (Mo) in legume-based pastures on acid soils, zinc is the micronutrient most likely to be needed in fertiliser programs in Australian agriculture. Zinc is often needed in crops. The availability of zinc in the soil for plant root uptake is reduced at high pH. Zinc is most likely to be needed in fertiliser programs on alkaline soils.

Being a micronutrient (trace element), zinc is required in relatively low amounts. If a concentrated zinc fertiliser such as Zinc Sulfate Monohydrate (33% Zn) was blended with MAP, and used at planting in a winter cereal crops, e.g. wheat and barley planted at narrow row spacings, there would be insufficient point sources of zinc in the crop row for it to be accessed by all plants.

Granulock® Z is a compound fertiliser that contains some zinc in every granule. It provides a more uniform and effective distribution of zinc in the crop row.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers (a business of Incitec Pivot Ltd ABN 42 004 080 264)

28 Freshwater Place

Southbank Vic 3006

Freecall 1800 009 832

www.incitecpivotfertilisers.com.au