

WHAT IS FERTILISER?

Plant food which provides food that is either taken up through the soil or via the leaf to sustain growth and health of any plant.

If you don't fertilise and you continuously cut or harvest the turf, eventually the plant will require food and get weaker and suffer resulting in poor plant count and poor performance. Fertiliser is normally manufactured with an NPK analysis which means:

- N: = Nitrogen
- P: = Phosphorus
- K: = Potassium

Balanced Nutrient Input

Too Much Nutrient

Affect nutrient uptake

Excess top growth

Slow greens

Poor Root system

Potential disease

Too little Nutrient

Susceptible to wear

Poor surface condition

Poor color response

Potential disease

What is Granular Fertiliser?

There are two different types of Granular Fertilisers:

Compound: each granular contains N P K plus other ingredients; it is made by mixing all ingredients together in a liquid soup then drying all the moisture out creating a granule of different sizes, it is then sieved to create either a fine or coarse grade. **Main advantage is:** each granule contains all the ingredients, therefore when the product is spread a good placement is created, the main disadvantage is that large quantities have to be manufactured at one time and therefore you cannot be flexible with ingredients or small quantities.

Blended: the word 'blend' means a number of different ingredients of same particle size, mixed together in the right proportions to provide an N P K granular fertiliser. Blended fertilisers are becoming more popular because of their flexibility i.e. you can change key ingredients at any time to suit the application, such as more slow release etc. because of the technology of producing accurate particle size blended fertilisers will spread the same as compound fertilisers.

Types of Nitrogen

It's not enough just to know the amount of nutrients. You'll also need to know what kind of nitrogen is in the fertiliser. Fast release nitrogen is available to the plant immediately. Weed Man slow release nitrogen is coated, so that the nitrogen is only available to the plant when soil bacteria have broken down the coating. This process is gradual, so the slow release nitrogen provides nutrients to the plants over a period of about 8 weeks.

Controlled Release

There are two advantages to slow-release nitrogen:

1. The nitrogen is made available to the plant as the plant needs it, over an 8-week period. With a fast release fertiliser, it's either feast or famine for the plant.
2. Since the fertiliser is used gradually, very little is wasted.