

Complete Fertiliser Analysis

Sustainable Soil Management with the Mikhail Balance System

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ANALYSIS REQUIRED : Complete
Fertiliser Analysis

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Total Analysis

ITEM	unit	RESULT
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Basic Measures:

pH (1:5 Water)		6.16
Electrical Conductivity	EC μS/cm	3300
TOTAL SOLUBLE SALT	TSS ppm	10890
MOISTURE CONTENT	MC %	4.4

Major Nutrients:

(Major Nutrients in percentages)				
TOTAL NITROGEN	N	kg/t	7.2	0.722 %
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	P	kg/t	3.2	0.319 %
TOTAL POTASSIUM	K	kg/t	14.2	1.42 %
TOTAL SULPHUR	S	kg/t	1.3	0.13 %

Total Cations:

TOTAL CALCIUM	Ca	%	1.89
TOTAL MAGNESIUM	Mg	%	0.315
TOTAL SODIUM	Na	%	0.0568

Trace Minerals:

TOTAL COPPER	Cu	ppm	17
TOTAL ZINC	Zn	ppm	104
TOTAL IRON	Fe	%	1.05
TOTAL MANGANESE	Mn	ppm	321
TOTAL COBALT	Co	ppm	3.93
TOTAL MOLYBDENUM	Mo	ppm	0.605
TOTAL BORON	B	ppm	35.9

Carbon Content:

TOTAL ORGANIC MATTER	%	34.2
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	%	17.1
CARBON/NITROGEN RATIO	C/N	23.68

Microbial Analysis

ITEM	unit	RESULT	% of Total Active Bacteria
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ACTIVE LACTIC ACID BACTERIA		100,000	16.07 %
Active Fungi	cfu/g	250,000	
Cellulose Utilisers	cfu/g	42,000	
TOTAL ACTIVE FUNGI	cfu/g	292,000	46.94 %
ACTIVE YEASTS	cfu/g	140,000	22.50 %
ACTIVE ACTINOMYCETES	cfu/g	90,000	14.47 %
ACTIVE PHOTOSYNTHETIC BACTERIA	cfu/g	100	0.02 %
Total Active Population:	cfu/g	622,100	

Notes: See notes on Biology Management (page 3).
 ppm = parts per million = milligrams per kilogram cfu/g = colony forming unit per gram of material
 1 % = 10,000 ppm

Notes on Biology Management

The first thing to remember is that SWEP results are for ACTIVE micro-organisms only. This means only those that will immediately grow under ideal conditions (generally about 7-10% of total soil biomass). This allows us to analyse samples year round, since the microbes that are active in spring will still be present in summer or winter, but at very reduced levels of activity. Given the ideal conditions in our cultures, they will spring back to life and grow much more quickly than others.

Active Indicator Organisms

Photosynthetic bacteria like *Rhodospseudomonas spp* and *Bradyrhizobium spp* require only sunlight, carbon dioxide and mineral nutrients to survive. They are important in recycling organic matter, particularly compounds that are difficult to break down - such as pesticide and petrochemical residues. They are also important for synthesis of bio-active compounds that are known to stimulate plant growth.

Yeasts such as *Saccaromyces spp*, *Debaryomyces spp*, *Torulopsis spp* and *Rhodotrula spp* synthesise plant growth substances from amino acids and sugars that are produced by photosynthetic bacteria. These substances also promote the growth of Lactic acid bacteria and Actinomycetes.

Lactic acid bacteria such as *Lactobacillus spp*, *Leuconostoc spp*, *Lactococcus spp* and *Pediococcus spp* produce Lactic Acid from sugars and carbohydrates. Lactic acid is a strong bio-suppressive compound that helps control harmful micro-organisms. This effect, together with other trace nutrients produced by members of this group, is particularly beneficial to the growth of Photosynthetic bacteria and Yeasts.

Actinomycetes such as *Actinomyces spp* and *Streptomyces spp* produce antibiotic compounds that are effective suppressants of pathogenic organisms. They have also been shown to produce plant hormones - especially when treated with kelp extracts.

Fungi such as *Aspergillus spp*, *Penicillium spp*, *Mucor spp* and *Rhizopus spp* have many beneficial effects on plant growth. These include the production of enzymes, antibiotics and various growth regulators. They are also important in the conversion of organic matter to humic substances. Some of the less complex compounds produced from this process are also important food sources for some bacteria.

Cellulose Utilisers like *Trichoderma spp* require only minerals and cellulose for growth. These fungi break down plant remains into organic materials that are beneficial to other micro-organisms such as Protozoa.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

TOTAL NITROGEN	Dumas method, LECO	TOTAL COBALT	Acid digestion, ICPAES
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	Acid digestion, ICPAES	TOTAL BORON	Acid digestion, ICPAES
TOTAL POTASSIUM	Acid digestion, ICPAES	TOTAL MOLYBDENUM	Acid digestion, ICPAES
TOTAL SULPHUR	Acid digestion, ICPAES	pH	Method 4A1, water suspension*
TOTAL CALCIUM	Acid digestion, ICPAES	Electrical Conductivity	Method 3A1, water extract*
TOTAL MAGNESIUM	Acid digestion, ICPAES	TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	Method 6B2b*
TOTAL SODIUM	Acid digestion, ICPAES	MOISTURE CONTENT	Gravimetric method
TOTAL IRON	Acid digestion, ICPAES	CARBON / NITROGEN RATIO	Calculation
TOTAL MANGANESE	Acid digestion, ICPAES	Microbial Analysis	SWEP Methods
TOTAL ZINC	Acid digestion, ICPAES		
TOTAL COPPER	Acid digestion, ICPAES		

* Rayment, G.E. & Higginson, F.R. (1992). Australian Laboratory Handbook for Soil and Water Chemical Methods. Inkata Press, Port Melbourne, Australia.