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DoloZest® News

0800 843 809

www.esi.org.nz

Functional Fertiliser Ltd

peter@dolomite.co.nz or coralie@esi.org.nz



Soil Fertility

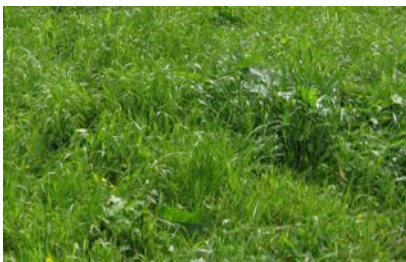
Can it be as simple as looks good, smells good, feels good? Science based training would suggest otherwise and at least a comprehensive soil test would be required before an opinion could be offered.

If there was insufficient time for a test to be conducted would we simply shrug our shoulders and claim “no-idea” or would we be brave enough to make a call.

Learning is always from the big picture down to the detail which is why people normally view a potential new home three times before making the decision to buy.

The first viewing provides an overall impression and answers the questions of, “what’s it built of, are there enough bedrooms, and could it work for us?”

The second visit is to determine where the bathroom and toilets are in relation to the bedrooms and is the dining room and kitchen layout suitable for the way we live.



“Today the pasture is lush shining green healthy herb basket of organic pasture feed. I get huge pleasure with the production, animal health, happy cattle/farming, healthier soils, less stress on the farmer and stock and a greater profit, while knowing the farm has a carbon sequestering sink, i.e. we are doing our bit to reduce the CO₂ and caring for our environment, and no nitrogen so huge reduction Nitrous Oxide for today and tomorrow’s children and

doing it now at lower cost than we ever thought.

This demonstrates to us the programme is really highly achievable in a far shorter timeframe than we thought it would take.

We have comments from our neighbours saying; “your cattle look very healthy, happy and your pastures are so green and even during the droughts moisture stress periods, so what are you doing”? I even get surprised we always have good pasture. Even the Fertiliser spreading company Malcolm Page said you must be doing something right, when I cast my eye over your farm it’s shining, greener and healthy.”

Thank you team, the farm’s looking in excellent heart, this demonstrates that the balance of the farm is in very good heart, and now having healthy bees working well. I say if this is as stressful as the changes are to the FF systems, they are a pleasure.”

The third visit is to check out where the sideboard goes, is the dining room big enough for the recently purchased table and chairs, and is there sufficient cupboard space for all the crockery.

Always it’s from the big picture to the detail, just the way learning naturally takes place, and yet when it comes to assessing soil fertility the opposite is often the norm, with a focus on a single or narrow range of elements.

Any nutrient a property is deficient in can be sorted, with the cost only a fraction of the total property value, and yet fertility is often reduced to an Olsen P figure.

Top operators are great observers and trust their gut feel, before focusing on detail. Following is a piece written by Stuart Pritchard of Forest Lakes Farm close to Otaki.

Stuart and I met at the National Government’s Blue Green Conference in Otaki in March 2013. A total Nutrient programme was mapped out and the first application was applied later that month.



Soil tests are essential but they usually only reinforce what is learnt from walking the property and digging a few holes. If the fertiliser history of the property is well-documented, particularly the last five years' inputs, soil tests seldom provide a surprise.

Pasture observations focus initially on two things, the amount of bare ground between plants, and colour. Land covered almost completely by grasses, herbs, and clover indicates that the soil conditions are suitable for pasture.

Colour is as important, and healthy vigorous pasture with a wide variety of herbs such as chicory, plantain, dandelion, yarrow, and buttercup provides a wide variety of shade and sheen.

Clover leaf of thumb-nail size or larger, uniformly throughout the pasture indicates soil nutrient levels are adequate for strong growth. The feel of the land when walking over it is a valuable measure. Soil should not feel hard and unforgiving, even when quite dry. Maintaining a steady walking pace should be effortless.

Pasture should be a pleasant place to be, even though there may not be a distinct scent. Smell is an important and usually quite refined sense, and we instinctively move on from places where there is an unpleasant odour.

The following is taken from The Carbon Underground website:-

On January 11 this year (2017) a press briefing inside the US Capitol on soil health and reversing climate change was sponsored by a diversity of environmental groups and govt. agencies.... Organisers of the briefing issued a statement that read.

“Hope for the future depends on reversing these disturbing trends: dangerous concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, skyrocketing rates of diet related diseases, and rapidly vanishing natural resources especially water. These things have one thing in common: they can't be solved without soil. We might take dirt for granted, but we can't do much without it. In this briefing experts will explain how our ability to feed the world and cool the planet depends on how we care for the soil.”

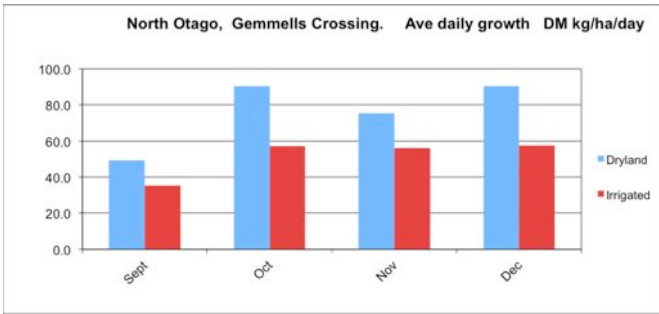
Regardless of individual views on climate change it's important to embrace beneficial change where there is little if any risk involved, regardless of helpful comments from friends and family.

When funds are tight

Mixes based on CalciZest and DoloZest can be tailored to fit individual situations and budgets.

Continuing to keep soil biology humming provides the following benefits over late autumn and summer.

- Stronger autumn and early winter growth
- Improved drainage
- Reduced pugging and treading damage
- Quicker recovery after grazing
- Higher feed value



For more information, call us on 0800 843 809

Regards,

Rein & *Carole*