

# Essential Plus



**A 100% organic, high carbon biostimulant that provides both plants and the soil with a ‘slow release’ food source.**

**It contains a balance of seaweed, 21 amino acids, sugars, humates, enzymes, vitamins, plus other ingredients to condition soil, enhance soil microbiology, reduce plant stress and maximise plant health.**



- Biostimulants are ‘metabolic enhancers’. They do not directly affect plant growth, but enable the plant to maximise its growth and development by allowing it to fully utilise available nutrients.
  - Research has shown that biostimulants enhance turfgrasses ability to withstand environmental stresses, enhance growth (particularly roots), improve photosynthetic efficiency (maximize available light), and improve health while under stress from drought, heat, nematodes, disease and high salinity.
  - Less mineral fertiliser input is necessary when a biostimulant programme is used.
  - Soil is improved using Essential Plus – heavy soils can be ‘aggregated’ to increase soil aeration and water infiltration rates. Light soils can be improved by adding ‘good’ organic matter that will increase CEC and reduce fertiliser requirements (does NOT increase thatch). The high carbon content means Essential Plus is an important food source for soil microbes.
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- Essential Plus is most effective when used in a continual programme to build soil and plant health. Apply regularly to maximise plant health prior to the onset of stress. Prevention of stress is more effective and cheaper than post-stress fungicidal treatments.

| Product | Pack Size      | Rate        | Water Volume |
|---------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.0.1   | 10ltr & 200ltr | 4-10 ltr/ha | 600 ltrs/ha  |

| Usage Period   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Product        | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Essential Plus | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |

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## What the main ingredients in Essential Plus do:

- **Seaweed** – Food source for soil microbes that will increase the microbial population. This helps break down any excess dead and dying leaf/root material to reduce thatch and increase root mass. Extracts of seaweed interact with plant hormones to elicit plant defence systems and enhance growth.
  - **Amino acids** – Amino acids play a vital role in plant health. They are used by plants to assist in resistance of drought stress by regulating stomatal opening and controlling cell water levels and balance (maximising plant health). They also play a key role in nutrient ion transport, nitrogen assimilation and chlorophyll production.
  - **Humic acid** – Plays a role in conditioning heavy soils – leads to aggregation, greater soil aeration and higher drainage rates. Will increase CEC of sandy soils and make better use of applied nutrients. Allows plants to absorb nutrients more easily (less energy used by the plant).
  - **Cellulose fibre** – Boosts soil carbon content to feed soil microbiology, increases water and nutrient availability to the plant, improves soil structure and stability of clay soils by aggregation and reduces nutrient leaching.
  - **Carbohydrates** – Building carbohydrate reserves during the growing season will help turf plants survive periods of stress. Spring and summer applications of Essential Plus will build up plant health so autumn disease pressures and winter frost damage is kept to a minimum.
  - **Lignin** – Breaks down slowly in the soil to a useful form of soil organic matter. It can therefore be considered a slow-release portion of biostimulant that will feed the soil and make micronutrients more available.
- Ideal as a tank mix with Companion and/or wetting agents (apply to the soil, not the leaf)
  - Useful in USGA/sand rootzones with low CEC to improve nutrient retention
  - Apply all year round as part of a programme for best results
  - Effective in seedling establishment when applied pre and post seeding/turfing
  - Fantastic results in winter sports pitches, providing healthy hard-wearing surfaces

- **Store out of direct sunlight, with a tightly secured lid and shake well before use**

| Issue   | Suggested Tank Mix (per ha)   |
|---|---|
| High sand rootzone with very low CEC and poor nutrient retention. Fertilisers have short term effect only | Apply an early season Sustane 4.6.4 followed by a programme of Essential Plus throughout the year combined with Sustane granular fertilisers.   |
| Heavy soil based rootzone with poor drainage, compaction issues, thatch and surface water in winter       | Apply a programme of Essential Plus combined with Companion throughout the growing season. Reduce fertiliser inputs to sensible levels and aerate regularly.  |
| Winter sports pitches under high wear all season long.  | Apply 10l Essential Plus combined with 8l Companion during initial grow in at 2-3 week intervals. Continue with a programme of monthly applications of Essential at 10l/ha all year round combined with Companion when soil temperatures are sufficient at 4-8l/ha. |

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