

TerraLink

# Insider

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.

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From the Power of the Ocean

## GardenPro Liquids with Kelp Extract

Used for thousands of years by seaside dwellers for food, agriculture and more recently for medicinal and cosmetic purposes, kelp packs a powerful punch in providing a storehouse of health and nutritional benefits.

Although the kelp family embodies over 30 genera, the most widely researched species is a type of brown algae, *Ascophyllum nodosum* (Norwegian kelp, knotted kelp) which hails from our very own Canadian waters. Found exclusively in the northern hemisphere, it grows in the Atlantic inter-tidal zone from the Arctic circle to the Northeastern United States and along the coast of Northern Europe. The premium harvesting areas are the pristine and productive waters off the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This area endures the most extreme tidal activity in the world, with fluctuations between tides in the Bay of Fundy as much as 14 meters (48 feet). As a result, *Ascophyllum nodosum* has developed unique survival strategies to withstand severe environmental challenges, from lying in salty seawater on the bottom of the ocean in the freezing cold, to basking in intense sun exposure during the lowest tides of summer. Through many years of research, scientists have found that *Ascophyllum nodosum* extract contains a complex mixture of carbohydrates and polysaccharides, organic and amino acids, macro- and micronutrients and plant growth regulators, including auxins, gibberellins and cytokinins. The use of the kelp extract equates to some astonishing benefits to plant growth and vigor including



larger, more abundant roots; thicker stems with more lateral branching, resulting in a larger plant; increased fruit size and sweetness with a longer-lasting shelf life and overall faster establishment. As well, the plant is more capable of fighting off diseases and pest attacks, tolerating environmental hardships such as extreme hot or cold temperatures, drought and excessive salt levels in soil.

Fast acting GardenPro concentrated blended liquids with kelp extract provide a complete balance of nutrients and are easy to mix and apply either to foliage or soil.

**GardenPro Transplanter 5-15-5:** Helps build a bigger root system to get plants off to a healthy start. Recommended for all plants at the time of

transplanting, then twice more every other week to aid in pest- and disease-resistance. Can be used in conjunction with bonemeal for a long term supply of phosphorus. Available with or without I.B.A. and humic acid. Each 1kg bottle makes 69 liters.

**GardenPro Tomato Food 9-11-11:** Immediately noticeable results in plant vigor; provides superior resistance to diseases common to tomatoes.

**GardenPro Container Garden 4-15-7:** A complete balance of macro- and micronutrients for use on all container grown plants.

**GardenPro Quick Green with Iron 5-0-0+7.2Fe:** Contains nitrogen and iron to quickly green up pale, chlorotic leaves. For use indoors and outdoors on houseplants, leafy vegetables, annuals, perennials & shrubs.

Also available with kelp extract:

- **GardenPro Rose Food 5-17-12**
- **GardenPro All Purpose 10-10-10**
- **GardenPro Flower Booster 6-20-10**

- With Kelp Extract
- Reduces plant stress
- Builds a strong root system
- Promotes rapid establishment of all plants

Transplanter alone      Transplanter + Kelp Extract

Rooted in your community.

TerraLink

Do You Need a Vendor/Dispenser's Licence?

## Regulations Affecting Sales

Occasionally we get asked about the various laws and regulations affecting sales of pesticides and fertilizers. Here is a brief run-down of what is generally required:

### Fertilizer:

Products are regulated under the federal Fertilizer Act. There is no certification system for your firm or your staff. All fertilizers and their labels must be compliant with the Act's regulations; some items must be registered depending on a variety of circumstances. Generally, the vendors you purchase from must assure you the products are compliant. Note: pesticide-fertilizer mixes (i.e. weed n' feed, moss control products for lawns, etc.) are regulated under the Fertilizer Act and not the PCP Act, so a provincial dispenser certificate is not required to sell them. As a rule of thumb, if the product does not have a PCP number listed on the label, you do not require a vendor license or dispenser certificate. If in doubt, talk to your supplier.

### Pest Control Products:

Products must have a PCP number on the label (federal Pest Control Products Act). Also, the sale of pesticides is regulated by the provincial IPM Act. Your company must have a vendor license. Additionally, staff must have dispenser certificates and question the customer to satisfy themselves the customer is competent to use the product correctly and safely.

Go Green

## Kelp Organics All Natural Fertilizers

Often we are asked how an organic fertilizer with a low N-P-K analysis (such as Kelp Organics All Natural Garden & Shrub Food 5-5-5+1% Iron) can be as effective as a synthetic fertilizer such as 10-15-19. It's true that synthetic fertilizers can have more immediate effects, because their chemical alteration makes them more readily available to plants. Organic fertilizers rely on soil microbes to break them down first, so the noticeable benefits appear after a longer time period. You could say synthetic fertilizers feed the plants, whereas organic fertilizers feed the soil that feeds the plants.

However, organic fertilizers play a much broader role

than just providing nutrients. By encouraging beneficial soil microbes, these microscopic garden helpers also change unavailable nutrients in the soil into plant-usable forms, help to break down clay soils and build humus in sandy soils, increase water penetration and moisture retention and improve drainage and air infiltration (often the most limiting aspect of plant growth). Earthworms are



also attracted to soils high in organic matter and play a significant role in soil structure and fertility by acting as tiny tillers to increase pore space, while their castings (droppings) provide a nutrient-rich source of organic fertilizer. Therefore, the repeated use of organic fertilizers helps build a solid base for nurturing plants.

Kelp Organics Lawn Food 9-2-4+1% Iron and Kelp Organics Garden & Shrub Food 5-5-5+1% Iron are both 100% all natural and are **eligible for OMRI listing**. They contain the following:

- **Feather Meal:** Contains fairly high nitrogen levels that are slowly released over a 4-month period.
- **Bonemeal:** A highly available source of phosphorus. Steam processed.
- **Dolomite Lime:** A good source of magnesium and calcium, two secondary nutrients often lacking in west coast soils. Naturally mined.
- **Sulphate of Potash (Potassium sulfate):** A two-nutrient fertilizer containing potassium and sulphur. Nearly every aspect of plant growth is dependent

on adequate supplies of potassium, while sulphur aids in the uptake of other nutrients. Naturally mined.

- **Kelp Meal:** An excellent source of micronutrients often lacking in poor soils.
- **Iron:** Provides quick green-up.

Sources: [www.cmg.colostate.edu/gardennotes](http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/gardennotes); [www.bigquill.com](http://www.bigquill.com); <http://en.wikipedia.org>



Save Water this Summer

## Waterwise Lawn Seed

**Waterwise** Lawn seed is a mixture of four fine fescues for a fine-textured, lush lawn that needs a lot less maintenance than an average lawn. It will grow in both sun and shade and once established, requires less watering and less mowing than a traditional lawn. A wise choice for saving water.

**LESS WATERING:** The leaves of fine fescue plants are very thin and do not readily lose moisture to the air and so do not dry out as quickly as other species. Fine fescues also create extensive root systems, which source water and nutrients from the soil better than other turf grasses. As a result, less water (and less nutrients) will be needed once a **Waterwise** Lawn is established.

**LESS MOWING:** The fine fescues used in a **Waterwise** Lawn have been bred by turf grass scientists to be low-growing. That, coupled with less water and nutrient inputs, results in slower growth/shorter grass and so less mowing is required.

If left unmown, **Waterwise** grass blades will grow to about 8 inches and will lay over (seed-heads may also appear), resulting in a "swirling" appearance; it's softer and less uniform than a traditional lawn. If a more manicured look is desired, mow to a height of about 3 inches. When mowing, grass clippings should be mulched and left to return nutrients to the soil.

In winter, under a lot of snow, a **Waterwise** Lawn will go dormant and brown. With little or no snow, it should stay green through the winter.

Overseeding can be done with **Waterwise** Lawn seed. If existing lawns are overseeded with **Waterwise** Lawn seed once or twice a season for several seasons, eventually the **Waterwise** Lawn will out-compete the existing lawn and become established.

A **Waterwise** Lawn tolerates moderate traffic. As with any grass, if used in an area of high traffic, overseeding may be needed.

