

**Issued in: July 2000****Serial No: 00/1****FERTILISER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NURSERY TEA**

This Advisory Circular replaces Circular No. F 9, Serial No. 01/96, issued in January 1996 on the use of fertiliser for nursery tea plants.

1.0 Introduction

Two nursery mixtures, viz. T65 MAP (containing mono-ammonium phosphate) and T65 DAP (containing di-ammonium phosphate), are recommended differing only in the source of phosphate. The option to have two P fertiliser sources is to allow the grower to use either source depending on its availability in the market. When both mixtures are available, T65 MAP is preferred as it is easier to handle because it dissolves faster.

1.1 Composition of nursery mixtures - T65 MAP and T65 DAP**1.1.1 T65 MAP**

15 parts	Sulphate of ammonia	(20.6% N)
20 parts	Mono-ammonium phosphate	(20% N and 35% P ₂ O ₅)
15 parts	Sulphate of potash	(48% K ₂ O)
15 parts	Epsom salt	(16% MgO)
<u>65 parts</u>		

The mixture contains approximately 10.9% N, 10.8% P₂O₅, 11.1% K₂O and 3.7% MgO.

1.1.2 T65 DAP

20 parts	Sulphate of ammonia	(20.6% N)
15 parts	Di-ammonium phosphate	(18% N, 46% P ₂ O ₅)
15 parts	Sulphate of potash	(48% K ₂ O)
15 parts	Epsom salt	(16% MgO)
<u>65 parts</u>		

The mixture contains approximately 10.5% N, 10.6% P₂O₅, 11.1% K₂O and 3.7% MgO.

1.2 Method, dosage and frequency of application

1.2.1 The fertilizer mixture should be applied using watering cans. In view of the limited solubility of Di-ammonium phosphate in the T65 DAP mixture, the fertiliser should be well ground and made into a paste prior to dissolving it in the required quantity of water.

1.2.2 Commencing from the time of rooting (approximately 2 to 3 months after planting of cuttings), apply 35 g of T65 MAP or T65 DAP in 5 l of water per sq. m. at fortnightly intervals (1 sq. m. would hold approximately 120 nursery plants).

1.2.3 Increase the dosage to 70 g in 5 l of water per sq. m. at fortnightly intervals as growth progresses (approximately 5 to 6 months after planting of cuttings).

1.2.4 Following each application, wash the foliage with clean water, to avoid scorch of leaves.

1.3 Estimation of T65 requirements

At the above rates of application, the quantity of T65 MAP or T65 DAP required to raise 10,000 plants is estimated to be 60 to 90 kg, depending on the length of the nursery period in different regions. An approximate estimate of the quantity of the mixture required to raise 10,000 plants for low, mid- and up country is given below:

	Length of nursery period (months)	Quantity (kg)
Low country	8 to 10	60 to 80
Mid-country	8 to 10	60 to 80
Up country	10 to 12	80 to 90

1.4 Foliar application of zinc sulphate

Foliar application of zinc sulphate is recommended to induce bud break and activate the growth of nursery plants.

1.4.1 Dosage and frequency of application

About a week after the first application of T65, spray 14 g of zinc sulphate in 4.5 l of water to wet approximately 4500 plants, using knapsack sprayers. Repeat application at 4 to 6 weeks intervals, up to a maximum of 4 applications.

The Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Talawakelle

Copyright – The Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka © 2000

COPYRIGHT

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or information storage and retrieval, without permission in writing from the Director, The Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka.