

## MycroFeeder (liquid compost supplement) manual

Nutrigain produces supplements for the compost and casing. Especially easy to use is a liquid product that is watered onto the compost after the shelves are filled and before casing. The product is called MycroFeeder and comes in 20L drums or 1000L IBC. Suitable for White and Brown Mushrooms.

### 1. Storage

The drums should be stored in clean disinfected environment, out of the sun in a dust and frost free area. If stored incorrectly, you may experience some gassing (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the container (more likely in the IBC) and in which case this should be released periodically if not being used.

Each drum has a batch number that can be used for traceability and we suggest recording this on your growing charts.

There is no expiration date with this product, but we recommend that it is used 6-8 months after day of production.

1 x 20L drum is sufficient to treat compost being applied to an area of 55 m<sup>2</sup>

Some preparation is required before application of the MycroFeeder.



20L drum



1000L IBC

### 2. Preparation

All concentrated product must be agitated before use as it separates during storage over a relatively short period. For 20L drums shake hard. For IBC's use compressed air to ensure all contents are thoroughly mixed. The following link shows a simple way to do this. Please do this for 1-2 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/jWxxRkyET5c>

Ensure dispensing tank and pipe work etc is clean and disinfected. Rate of use is 360ml/m<sup>2</sup> MycroFeeder. To this is added water in at least a ratio of 3 parts water to 1 part supplement.

For example, if you are applying for say 300m<sup>2</sup>

This means you need  $300 \times 360\text{ml} (0.36\text{L}) = 108$  litres of MycroFeeder. This would mean adding at least  $3 \times 108\text{L} = 324\text{L}$  water into a tank to dilute the 108 litres of supplement ie a total of  $1.4\text{L}/\text{m}^2$  of diluted supplement on to the compost surface. You can split this into 2 watering of  $0.7\text{L}/\text{m}^2$  if you prefer with 1-2 hour gap between if compost is wet.

Remove fine filters and use a coarse watering rose for application.

The diluted mix should be continuously agitated during application onto the compost surface and use as quickly as possible. Do not store in a diluted state.

It should be added 1-2 days prior to application of the casing so it has time to react with the compost. Keep some heat in the room to help the surface dry out a bit before applying casing.



Applying with a watering rose

### 3. Post application

Flush out tank, pipe work and nozzles etc with clean water after use, disinfect with hypochlorite or Sporekill (2%). Leave to dry.

### 4. CACing

If you ruffle up compost for CACing (compost), you need to be careful not to pull up too much compost from the surface loaded with concentrated Mycrofeeder as we do not want this product in large amounts in the casing

### 5. Case Run

Avoid excessive watering on first days after casing until the nutrient has reacted fully with the compost, if not, you will just wash it out and waste it.

Record the temperatures on the interface (where supplement is) as well as air and bed temperatures on crop cards. You need to monitor this carefully to ensure feeding temperature is reached and for how long. Interface temperature is not the same as compost and is influenced by cold air temperatures and watering.

The optimum temperature for feeding is 23C on the interface for a minimum of 2-3 days. This normally happens in last few days of case run and first day of airing. THE LONGER FEEDING TIME THE BETTER.

Avoid pushing compost temperatures too high (27C +) just to bring up the interface temperature, always control compost as first priority.

#### 6. The use of plastic film on the casing

We recommend the use of plastic film with tiny holes (microperforated) on the casing to encourage higher interface temperature for 2-3 days which will activate the product and increase the uptake by the mycelium. This has the additional advantage that moisture is not lost during some of the case run period.

There are different ways to do this; some growers put some of their water in at the beginning and then put plastic on from day 2 onwards (day 0 is casing day) to 24 hours before airing. Others will wait for mycelium to grow in, put water in on day 2/3 and then add plastic film and remove again 24 hours before airing, topping up if required.

Please note that when you apply plastic for 3 days or more, you will have a 1/3 more water than normal, because it has not been evaporated away, so you may end up putting 1/3 less water in the casing.

NOTE:

If you normally have a high air temperatures (20 C +) to keep compost at 25-26C then plastic will probably not be required as casing will lie around 23C already.

In the beginning, just experiment with a shelf section (1.5m) with the plastic so you can observe what happens and if you like it and it is successful you can scale it up.

OBSERVE MYCELIUM GROWTH from CAC and into CASING in early stages and encourage this in the first 1-2 days as it will be a bit weaker at first, but once it is established, it will catch up and be stronger than normal.

#### 7. Post 1<sup>st</sup> flush

Because the yield will be higher on 1<sup>st</sup> flush and depending on whether you use plastic and how much moisture you lose from the casing, you will need to put more water in between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> flush to take account of this.

