

STATE OF THE ART BLENDER UPGRADE AT LEONGATHA

Delivering the best value for you is one of our main drivers at Brown's. Fertiliser is one of your major inputs and, done well, can be a great driver of your profitability. To make your fertiliser experience an even better one, we've just replaced our ageing, manually controlled blending facility in Leongatha with the latest technology, computer controlled system. What does all this mean for you? It means a level of accuracy in blends simply not possible before and we believe, unmatched in Southern Gippsland. It also means significantly faster dispatch times. What previously took 20 minutes can be done in 5. This means spreaders are in and out faster, bins and bags are prepared faster and trucks are loaded quicker.

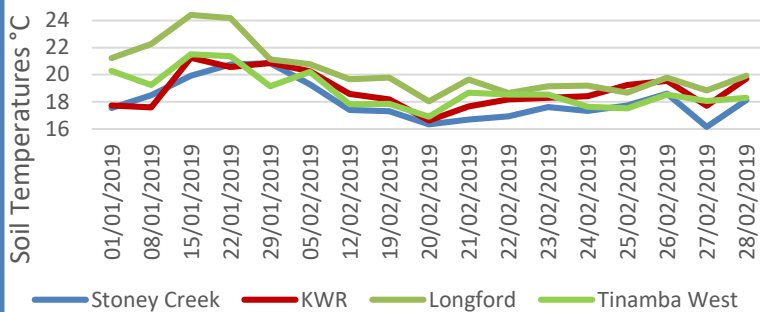
The advanced system uses the latest technology from one of the world's leading blending system manufacturers, individually weighing each ingredient in the blend through independent hoppers before adding them to the blend. This allows for precise measurements with the system checking and calibrating itself every second; resulting in extremely accurate blends and quick and efficient dispatch of fertiliser, to ensure you receive the tailored product you requested.

This is a significant long-term investment of nearly half-a-million dollars in the region and the business. We believe it's critical for the farmers we work with to have the best possible available systems to help your productivity. This is important to make sure your fertiliser dollar drives maximum benefit for you. And of course all of our fertiliser is dispatched over a trade-certified weighbridge so you only pay for the actual quantity you receive with independently certified accuracy.

We look forward to welcoming Brown's customers to the Leongatha site, to witness this great machine at work. To find out more or to develop your own custom fertiliser blend, speak to our Leongatha agronomists Vicki Nink or Katherine Bohn.

Soil temperature and rainfall update

Soil temperatures Jan 19' to Feb 19'



Average Monthly Soil Temperature (°C)

Month	Koo Wee Rup	Stoney Creek	Tinamba West	Longford
January	19.3	19.4	19.7	22.6
February	18.5	17.7	17.9	19.2

Monthly Rainfall (mm)

Month	Koo Wee Rup	Stoney Creek	Tinamba West	Longford
January	28.8	54.4	N/A	71.2
February	26.2	27.6	N/A	38

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Leongatha
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Maffra
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Tinamba West
Ph: 0427 220 127

Merton
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Merton
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Soil Constraints on Pasture Productivity - The 4 R's

Pasture production constraints relating to soil fertility in a farming enterprise continues to be a major issue towards maximising profit and efficiency.

With a wide range of management programmes, soil types and climatic conditions there is no specific system which best suits all businesses, therefore all farming organisations should be independently assessed to determine the most adequate program to maximise their return on investment.

In recent studies extensive soil testing has determined that there are very few businesses that meet a full range of optimum results for pH, Olsen P, extractable K and extractable S, therefore providing the insight that there is greater opportunity for improved gains.

A fertiliser program to individually meet those requirements needs to incorporate "The 4 R's", which are:

Right Product – Correct balance of nutrient supply for the specific pasture/crop.

Right Rate – Maximising supply to species demand whilst limiting over supply.

Right Time – Offering nutrient availability to supply crop demand within seasonal demands.

Right Place – Applying nutrients in the root zone for adequate uptake and utilisation.

To adapt a programme to suit the criteria you first require the "right" information through the help of soil tests, tissue tests as well as information on paddock history - relating to prior management, to maximise pasture nutrition advice.

A nutrient budget evaluates all the critical information above, assessing the balance of production and soil retention demands against particular inputs to specific areas of the production system. This also incorporates best management practises to improve efficiencies whilst reducing environmental impacts, with key consideration of nutrient variability around the farm and adapting zones where necessary to adequately optimise results in those areas.

It is only a matter of time before Australia is required to join many of the developed countries in regulating nutrient input to minimise environmental damage, as is already beginning to occur in many high-risk areas nationwide.

Depending on the requirements of those individual production systems, whether purely supplying a nutrient balance or adding soil amendments, it is also important to assess whether the budget can afford the cost of best practise or be able to adapt a program for gradual improvements over a period of time.

To maximise the productivity and profitability of pastures through increased soil fertility it requires investment in improved pasture species - although this is an additional cost to the business, the return on investment easily exceeds the expense making it a profitable investment.

This can all be discussed with your Browns Fertiliser Agronomist who is qualified to provide educated advice toward your farms nutrient requirements.

Welcome to Jessica, Our New Graduate Agronomist!

It is with great pleasure we welcome Jessica Ashburner as our new Graduate Agronomist. Jessica is based out of our Koo Wee Rup depot but will be seen working alongside the Agronomists at our other depots.

Jessica has a strong connection to the agricultural industry having grown up on her parents farm. Since finishing school Jessica has completed a Bachelor of Agriculture which then led to her previous role as an Assistant Agronomist. **Jessica can be contacted on 0408 082 036**



Our Team of Agronomists



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