

2018 is gearing up to be a very exciting year at Brown's Fertilisers.

We have a long history in Gippsland and we are excited to continue to invest in the region and in our business to support the Gippsland farming community. Some of the investments at our Leongatha site this year include:

- Two new spreader trucks which will be up and running by peak season. These will give us greater spreading capacity and safer operation
- Another side tipper trailer to further improve our capacity
- Additional field bins throughout the year
- Updating our bulk bag filling equipment for easier, faster and safer operation.
- And we will have news of more investments in the site as the year progresses

These new investments, as part of our continual improvement objective, will improve our efficiency, minimise down time and ensure our customers continue to receive quality service.

As always, in addition to our own quality spreading services, we offer tractor spreading from our ongoing partnership with Jarryd Byrnes from JJB Agricultural Contracting and Anthony Hill from A&T Hill Contracting, field bin and bag deliveries, and tailored agronomic advice to suit your farm requirements.

New Face at Brown's

We are excited to welcome our new graduate agronomist, Katherine Bohn to the Brown's family.

The addition of Katherine to our team comes at an exciting time for Brown's as we continue to build on our great service to our customers. Katherine grew up on a dairy farm in Tatura near Shepparton and has local family connections in Foster. She is currently working on a dairy farm near Shepparton, having recently finished her studies, where she attained a degree in Agricultural Science and a Bachelor of Business majoring in Economics.

Welcome to the family Katherine!



Can you identify These weeds?

1.



2.



3.



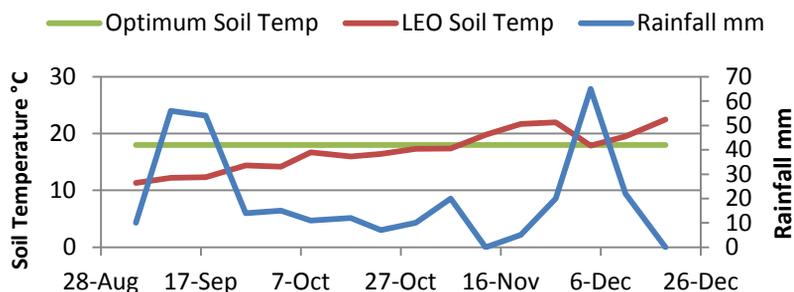
- 1. Dandelion:** Dandelion can be a good indicator of soils low in phosphorus and potassium.
- 2. Flatweed:** Often confused with dandelion, flatweed is an indicator of low potassium soils. Caution should be taken when grazing horses on pastures containing this weed. A bacteria that lives on the leaf is known to produce the toxin that causes stringhalt.
- 3. Capeweed:** Unlike dandelion and flatweed, capeweed will inhabit high fertility areas. Capeweed is a nitrogen accumulator and can cause health issues in grazing stock including nitrate poisoning and laminitis.

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Soil Temp and Rainfall Leongatha



Understanding soil temperature

Ryegrass growth rates are highest when soil temperatures are around 18°C. Although rye grass will continue to grow at soil temperatures as low as 4°C, growth rates will decrease dramatically.

Soil temperature plays a large role in seed germination and therefore sowing times.

SUMMER UPDATE

Rainfall for the final quarter of the year was slightly above average for Leongatha which helped to keep soil temperatures near optimum conditions. Despite the mild conditions predicted, January proved to be the fourth warmest January on record for Victoria with overnight lows providing no relief. Urea applications have been continuing in some areas depending on rainfall, with many customers getting organised for autumn applications and renovations. The season predicted will be ideal for early applications of super potash with the advantage of good pricing and extended terms if applied before the end of February. Unlike nitrogen based fertilisers, super potash won't volatilise into the atmosphere during dry conditions. A recent study showed that applying phosphorus fertiliser early can favour clover growth over grass in a mixed pasture. Why not apply early, boost your clover populations *and* have that fertiliser ready to capitalise on the first rains of the autumn break.

Late summer is also the ideal time to plan for autumn. If you are re-sowing, looking to improve pastures, or simply maintain your current quality feed, contact one of our experienced agronomists for advice. We conduct soil testing and analysis, create farm plans and fertiliser budgets targeted to your requirements and goals.

GET AUTUMN READY!

As the season comes to an end, it is time to start planning for autumn. In order for high quality pastures to perform, soil fertility must meet their demand. Key macro nutrients like phosphorus, potassium, sulphur and soil pH is best checked by conducting a soil test. A soil test will help us understand if nutrient levels are above or below the critical values which is particularly important after the previous tough two seasons. These results will then determine if maintenance application of nutrient is required or if a deficiency may need to be corrected in order for you crop to meet your objectives. Whilst soil testing this season, it is also a great time to get one of our qualified agronomists to walk over and check the performance of your pastures.



Our Team of Agronomists



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