

## Seeing is Believing-- My Experience with KF-20

It is difficult for the conventionally trained farmer or agronomist to think of fertilizer as anything but something that comes by the truck load. We buy flatbed trucks full of potash, dump trucks full of compost or manure. If someone gives us a few little bottles and tells us that this fertilizer is enough for our orchard we are naturally inclined to think he is joking or trying to sell us a voodoo charm.

We are used to delivering fertilizer by the tractor, the wheelbarrow, at least by the shovel. That is why it is hard to believe that we may soon be giving out fertilizer by the teaspoon and the eyedropper.

But seeing is believing. I first used KF 20 on houseplants and in a plant nursery, then began to use on the rare trees in the experimental orchard, most of them suffering from the heat, salinity and dryness of the Arava and showing a whole panoply of deficiency signs and symptoms.

I started to dose the rare trees regularly in Feb. 2003 and continued until June 2003.

I was so pleased by the results that I am currently planning to use KF-20 on another dozen species, as well as going another round with the rare trees.

The rare tree collection is housed in a net house of about 2 dunam. Most of the trees come from the far east, from islands where a thin film of fresh water float on saline ground water. The trees are being grown under 50% shade. Both water and soil are saline with a high ph.

The following trees were given KF-20 and these are the results:

Results from the use of KF-20 with rare plants at Kibbutz Ketura

<b>Tree</b>	<b>age</b>	<b>probelm</b>	<b>how applied</b>	<b>results</b>
Langsat	2 years	winter chlorosis	foliar spray	improvement in color
Bignay	4 years	winter chlorosis failure to thrive	irrigation foliar spray	green color, 5 cm increase in height
Bael	4 years	winter chlorosis little leaf syn.	foliar spray	green color, normal new growth
Guanabana	3 years	deficiency signs on all leaves	foliar spray irrigation	normal new growth, incresed height no sign of tip
burn		yellowing and tip burn		on new leaves
Eroboitrya	3 year	tip burn	foliar spray	new growth normal
White sapote	1 years	multiple def. "cactus"	foliar spray irrigation	increase in height, normal new leaves
Victoria	2 years	deformed flowers	foliar spray	open normal flowers
Camito	3 year	little leaf syndrome	foliar spray	normal sized leaves
Sapodilla	4 year	albinism	irrigation	green, dark leaves

<b>Tree</b>	<b>age</b>	<b>probelm</b>	<b>how applied</b>	<b>results</b>
Malabar nut	2 years	failure to thrive	irrigation	increase in height of 8 cm
Canistel	3 years	"cactus"	foliar	normal new growth
Santol	4years	acute albinism	foliar, irrigation	green color, green new growth
Curry tree	2 years	failure to thrive	foliar, irrigation	thriving, tree has flowered
Mai-feng	4 years old	weak weedy growth	irrigation x 5	thicker and healthier new growth
Guara berry	3 years old	fruit falls unripe	irrigation	berries are still on the tree
Terminalia sp	1 year old	winter chlorosis	irrigation	increase in height, green leaves
African chewing gum	1 year	failure to thrive	foliar spray	marked improvement
Catha edulis	6 months	winter chlorosis	foliar spray	marked improvment
Jacket plum	1 and a half	little leaf, albinism	foliar spray	marked improvement
Grafted jambolan	1 year	multiple def.	foliar spray	marked improvement

I am planning to continue to apply KF as a foliar spray as well as supply it through irrigation. I recommend it as a way of delivering microelements to plants in a usable form.

I suggest that the skeptical try it for themselves. The impact of this new biological based fertilizer on my plants was immediate and visible.

Sincerely,

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