



## Tip of the Month

October 2017

### AMMONIUM SULPHATE QUALITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Villa Crop Protection has invested heavily to develop quality ammonium sulphate adjuvants with L-numbers. The benefit of using ammonium sulphate with glyphosate is obvious because it overcomes antagonism from hard and brackish water on glyphosate. It also has various other benefits and we therefore encourage using ammonium sulphate adjuvants as a standard practice with all Villa glyphosate applications. Villa also recommends these adjuvants with various other herbicides like glufosinate-ammonium, halosulfuron, clethodim etc. The question arises what the benefits of Villa ammonium sulphate adjuvants are compared to fertilizer and other products that don't have an L-number.

#### Advantage 1 - Registration

Villa has done extensive research with numerous sources of ammonium sulphate. This initial research was done in the laboratory and then the most effective sources were tested in glasshouse and field trials for both efficacy and phytotoxicity. The specific source of ammonium sulphate was then registered under Act 36 of 1947 and we were then allocated an L-number as an adjuvant. This is a similar registration process to a pesticide! This research is over and above what the registrar requires, but we wanted to register only the most effective adjuvants for the local market. Fertilizer grade ammonium sulphate or products that don't have an L-number do not go through the same rigorous process, therefore we cannot endorse these products as adjuvants.

#### Advantage 2 - Quality and quality control

Villa sources technical grade ammonium sulphate for our adjuvant products. In the U.S.A., this quality is commonly referred to as "spray-grade" ammonium sulphate. This is often not the case with fertilizer grade ammonium sulphate which may contain

insoluble material, antagonistic particles or an incorrect pH. These three factors, amongst various others, could play havoc with glyphosate applications.

The laboratory at the factory where our ammonium sulphate is packed, does various quality control checks on each ammonium sulphate source and batch. Each batch is tested for a few very important properties that ensure that the correct quality product reaches the client. It often occurs that normal fertilizer does not pass one or more of these tests and may therefore contribute to incompatibility, poor weed control or even crop damage.

#### Advantage 3 - Product support

Villa endorses the suitability of our ammonium sulphate adjuvants because they have passed a rigorous registration process and various quality control checks. If we encounter any issues, we will stand by our product and give the necessary support to our clients.

#### Villa's stance

Villa has invested heavily in research and development to ensure that all the above-mentioned factors are in place. Our ammonium sulphate products have been thoroughly researched and are endorsed for use with major glyphosate brand names in South Africa. If using fertilizer grade ammonium sulphate, products without an L-number or non-endorsed products, there is absolutely no recourse if poor control or crop damage is obtained with glyphosate or any other herbicides.

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