

Nature Safe[®] research

University research data

R-13

Impact of soil temperature on Nature Safe fertilizer

Test conducted by:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Pest Management Research Center, Dr. George Lazarovits

Introduction and procedures

It has been assumed over the years that organic fertilizer, which depends on microbial activity for mineralization, will perform poorly in cold soil. Wayne Kussow, who conducted a study using Milorganite applications in Wisconsin soil in November, found that microorganisms mineralized the organic nitrogen at soil temperatures of 50°F and lower.

Dr. George Lazarovits, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, London, Ontario, examined this same issue using Nature Safe organic fertilizers. Nature Safe 10-2-8 fertilizer was added at 1% w/w ratio to Alliston and Simcoe soil types in Ontario, Canada. Measurements were taken every 10 days at soil temperatures of 10°C, 17°C, and 25°C. Germination of *V. dahliae microsclerotia* in the two different soil types were examined as well as ammonia release.

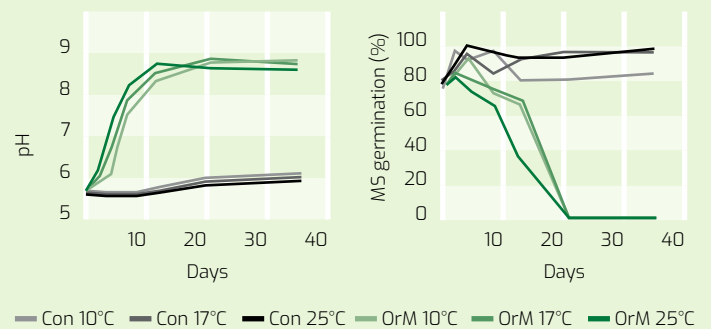
Test results

In the Simcoe soil there was no difference in microbial germination or ammonia release with each varying temperature. In the Alliston soil the higher temperature resulted in marginally faster ammonia release than the coolest temperature. The cooler temperature only moderately slowed the release of ammonium from the Nature Safe organic fertilizers, but extended its persistence in the soil significantly.

Conclusion

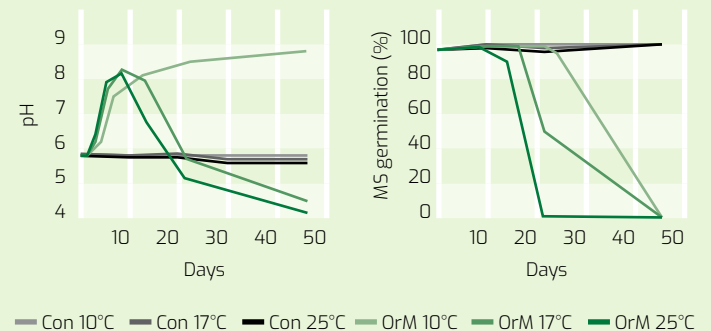
Nature Safe performs well in cold soils and should not impede its use as a dormant feed. Use of Nature Safe as a dormant feed should result in mineralization of organic nitrogen and be available for uptake by the root as needed.

IMPACT OF SOIL TEMPERATURE



KEY CON = Control. OrM = Nature Safe

Effect of organic amendment (1% w/w) at various temperatures on pH and germination of *V. dahliae microsclerotia* (MS) in Simcoe soil.



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Effect of organic amendment (1% w/w) at various temperatures on pH and germination of *V. dahliae microsclerotia* (MS) in Alliston soil.