Pasture

Liquid seaweed has been used to a limited extent on pasture for several decades. However, over the last 5 years advances in technology have produced cheaper and more effective liquid seaweed resulting in a dramatic increased usage on pasture.

It is now possible to reduce conventional fertilizer usage by coupling this with a scheduled application of liquid seaweed product.
This schedule is as effective and cheaper than using conventional granular fertilizer. The reduction in cost is significant and there are improvements in soil health as a result of a reduction in excess conventional fertilizer usage. Furthermore, in many cases it is possible to combine liquid seaweed application with the use of natural fertilizers to give a system which is both sustainable and economically feasible.

"**SUPERFINE PREMIUM**" has been designed to have maximum effect from the plant growth regulators coupled with a small amount of nutrients that ensures a reasonable nutrition level in the foliage. This combination promotes an increased amount of root exudate into the space close to the roots (the rhizosphere).
The root exudate feeds the bacteria and fungi in the rhizosphere which converts the soil "minerals" into a form which can be utilised by the pasture species.
There are two groups of liquid seaweeds used on pasture;
pure liquid seaweeds with no additives which will satisfy the Australian Organic Standard and fortified liquid seaweeds with additives which may or may not satisfy the Australian Organic Standard.

When designing a liquid seaweed application schedule several factors need to be considered; the timing and amount of rainfall (which will have an important bearing on the total amount of pasture grown per hectare), the natural fertility of the soil and if there are any serious deficiencies in the soil, and the pH of the soil. If the pH is below 4.8 and there are major trace element deficiencies, these should be addressed by application of lime and by adding the required trace element to the liquid seaweed (or apply it separately).
As a general rule, liquid seaweed should be applied twice in spring and once in autumn in dry land farms and in areas like Gippsland and West Tasmania three applications in spring and two in autumn are recommended.
The guiding principle is that application can be made if there is sufficient moisture and warmth in the soil.
The recommended application rates are 5-7 L/ha per application.

The most effective product in most situations is **Fair Dinkum Fertilizers** "**SUPERFINE PREMIUM**".

Some farmers wishing to satisfy the Australian organic standard may use a combination of "**SUPERFINE**" or "**GOLD**" with fish hydrolysate (or some other material containing nitrogen). These combinations are effective. Some workers also include some sugars such as molasses in their spray program and in some situations this can be economically feasible. Fair Dinkum Fertilizers recommend using Fish hydrolysate at 10L/ha.

The products commonly used are listed below in order of increasing cost per litre;

	Sprayer	Drippers	Comments
NB3	Coarse	No	Made from dried seaweed.
SUPERFINE	Fine	Yes	Made from dried seaweed and slightly acidic.
GOLD	Coarse	No	Made from fresh seaweed
GOLD 100	Fine	Yes	Made from fresh seaweed. Filtered to 100 microns.
SUPERFINE PREMIUM	Fine	Yes	Made from dried seaweed. Contains added nutrients, NPK & trace elements.
SUPERFINE SPURT	Fine	Yes	Made from dried seaweed. Similar to PREMIUM but with more nitrogen.
MATE	Coarse	No	Contains humate. Beneficial for holding nutrients in light soils.

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Fair Dinkum Fertilizers
manufacturers of quality seaweed products

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