

# How to obtain your Coconut Fertilizer Requirement

By W. Wickramasinghe

The marketing and distribution of coconut fertilizer are being handled by various government and private organisations. Of these, the major governmental institutions are the Fertilizer Corporation, Janatha Estates Development Board, the Govt. owned business undertaking of the Colombo Commercial (Fertilizer) Company, the Dept. of Agrarian Services and the Agrarian Services Centres, and their principal agents throughout the island. In addition, distribution of fertilizer is also effected through various Multipurpose Co-operatives and private owned

organisations, and thus your requirements of coconut mixtures are obtainable from any of the above mentioned organisations.

**Facilities accorded by the Coconut Cultivation Board for purchase of coconut fertilizer.**

The Coconut Cultivation Board has established fertilizer stores in the following stations. Information on the cost of fertilizer, procedures regarding payments etc. could be obtained from the respective stations or from the Board's Regional offices.

## Regional Office

1. 22, Gajaba Mawatha, Gampaha,
2. Warakawilla Walawwa, Karandapana, Kegalle.
3. 163, Main Street, Ratnapura.
4. 105C 1/1, Matara Road, Galle.
5. Nagoda, Kalutara, Kalutara South.
6. 43, Wilgoda Road, Kurunegala.
7. 20, Pannala Road, Kuliyaipitiya.
8. Mudukatuwa, Marawila.
  
9. 16, Kitulewela Temple Road, Matara.
10. 13, Teran Street, Hambanthota.
11. Mylambawely, Chenkaladi.
12. Vedikumburu Road, Monaragala.
13. New Town, Polonnaruwa.
14. 6000/44, Airport Road, Anuradhapura.
15. Agrarian Services Centre, Kilinochchi.
16. Senatex Building, D. S. Senanayake Mawatha, Ampara.
17. 86, Vihara Mawatha, Matale.
18. Y. M. C. A. Building, Colombo 1.

## Fertilizer Stores

- Neghmbo, Kirindiwala, Veyangoda
- Rabukkana
- Embilipitiya
- Ambalangoda, Galle
- Kalutara
- Wahera
- Bingiriya, Kuliyaipitiya
- Chilaw, Mundal, Nattandiya, Dankotuwa Marawila
- Matara
- Mulkirigala
- Mylambavelly
- Welipitiya
- Polonnaruwa
- 11 Stage, Anuradhapura
- Palai
- Uhana, Kaliodai

In addition to the above mentioned stores, the Coconut Cultivation Board supplies fertilizer on credit to the Agrarian Service Centres in the island. Accordingly, it becomes convenient for the land owners in the respective areas to obtain their fertilizer requirements from such centres.

For convenience of land owners who receive coconut fertilizer subsidies, an arrangement has been made to distribute young palm mixtures in 5 kg packets, through the Coconut Development Officers.

Necessary documents, fertilizer prices and information on quantities required will be issued by the Regional Officers of the Coconut Cultivation Board to applicants who wish to obtain fertilizer loans organized by the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank. The services of the Coconut Development Officer of your area will be available for you to obtain the relevant loan application forms and necessary certifications for such loans.

#### Coconut Fertilizer Prices

The prices of the Coconut Fertilizer at the Govt. owned business undertaking of the Colombo Commercial (Fertilizer) Company ex-Hunupitiya Stores are given below so as to give the coconut growers a general idea on the current prices.

<i>Mixture</i>	<i>Cost per Metric ton</i>	
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Cts.</i>
CU 1	2655	00
CU 2	2605	00
CU 3	2850	00
Young Palm mixture (Urea)	2512	00
Dolomite	700	00
Kirserite	4800	00

There is a considerable variation in the prices of Fertilizer marketed by different organizations. Further more in out stations stores, the cost of transport is also added to these prices.

To obtain advice on, the recommended coconut fertilizer mixtures, the correct doses of application, marketing institutions, Bank loans and any other relevant information you are kindly requested to contact the Coconut Development Officer in your area on Wednesdays.

#### STOP PRESS

#### Drought Damage in the Southern Province

Extensive damage to coconut palms due to drought has been reported from deep south of Sri Lanka. Coconut palms around Tangalle area have suffered badly. Preliminary investigations have revealed that palms on shallow soils with gravel and hard pan have succumbed to drought. Drought damage is minimal in estates where cultural practices have been carried out regularly.

Nothing can be done for dead palms. The growers have been advised to carry out the necessary cultural practices on a long term plan which would minimise drought damage in the future.