

A LEGEND RETURNS

Many farmers remember the name Langfos from the days of the original soft rock phosphate mine near Langebaan, which ceased operation in 1993.

In 2010, the Gecko Fert mine commenced production of organic sedimentary rock phosphate, resurrecting the Langfos name.

LANGFOS COSTS LESS THAN ANY OTHER PHOSPHATE FERTILISER

Many farmers have used Langfos during the past three years on maize, soya beans, sunflower, wheat, barley, lucerne and pastures – all with considerable success. This is especially true in North West, the Eastern Cape's coastal areas, the KwaZulu-

Natal Midlands and the eastern parts of the Free State. In these regions, acidic soil or soil with high levels of aluminium, iron or manganese pose difficulties for crop growers, and farmers swear by the beneficial influence of Langfos on lands.

The effect of Langfos is immediately visible in the first year after application, as it improves the soil fertility and increases the general fertility of these lands. Langfos is the only fertiliser that adds long-term value to soil as it does not wash or leach out, thanks to it being insoluble in water, but soluble in citric acid.

Thirty years after application, Langfos can still be detected in soil countrywide, actively available to plants. In addition to many micro-elements, Langfos contains 20% agricultural lime.

The main constituents of Langfos

- **Phosphorous (P)**
The total phosphorus content of Langfos 8% to 10% P – expressed as tricalcium phosphate – 63% of the product is in this form. With repeated extractions, it is soluble in 25% citric acid. The first extraction – the immediately available fraction – comprises 5% P.
- **Calcium (Ca)**
Langfos contains 20% Ca. As 25% of the Ca is bound to P, its neutralising action starts as the available P is taken up by plants. The

remaining Ca consists of carbonates and silicates.

- **Micro-elements**
Langfos supplies micro-elements, which are essential for plant growth. These include iron (Fe), sulphur (S), magnesium (Mg), molybdenum (Mo) and zinc (Zn), which all supplement soil reserves when regularly included in fertilisation. Langfos also contains cobalt (Co). (Reg. no. B4038 organic; Eco.Cert. NOP & EAU Reg. No: B4038 Organic).



ABOVE: Many farmers remark on the long-term fertility of soil fed with Langfos. After a 21-year absence, this well-known organic fertiliser is again available in South Africa. FW ARCHIVE

In a nutshell

- Langfos is sourced from the only organic sedimentary rock phosphate mined in South Africa.
- Langfos was mined intensively between 1923 and 1994 for use in agriculture. Farmers who applied it can still see the long-term benefits on their lands.
- In 2010, a new mine, Gecko Fert, was opened at Langebaanweg, putting Langfos back on the market.

COMPOSITION

Langfos is a pure organic phosphate certified by Ecocert. It is a medium-reactive rock phosphate with a phosphate content of approximately 8% and beneficial levels of calcium and trace elements.

The reactivity of rock phosphate is measured by the amount of phosphate soluble in a 2% citric acid solution. Based on this test, approximately 3,5% (50%) of the phosphate in Langfos is readily available for uptake by plants, the balance being released gradually.

Despite its high quality and the fact that it is delivered to farms, Langfos is lower in



cost than any other phosphate fertiliser.

Langfos rock phosphate and the name Langebaan Ruphosphate has been registered as a Group 2 Fertiliser in terms of Act 36 of 1947.

- Phone George Richards on 083 461 8979 or Kobus Swart on 083 302 5584. Visit www.geckofert.co.za for more information.
- For a reference, phone Dr Gerrie Lindeque of Parys, on 083 321 2562. He uses Langfos on pastures.