# **DCM Plant Based Feed**

# Home Trials

Strawberry Cucumber Salad Raspberries Conifer



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### What is DCM Plant Based Feed

- A professional slow controlled release fertiliser in a retail bag for the home gardener
- Gives 75-100 days of release (NPK 5-3-8)
- Certified for organic growing
- Ideal for growing in peat free compost
- Perfect for a range of plants including lawns, vegetables and container plants
- Can be top dressed or incorporated into the soil







### **Nutrition: Organic fertiliser**

#### **Release mechanism**

- Organic nutrients must be mineralised to be taken up by plant
- Mineralisation dependents on biology (helped by presence of compost in growing media)
- Microbe metabolic speed aligns with plant metabolic speed
- Release is well suited to plant growth







Each raw material has its own nutritional value

• Main elements:



- Naturally occurring secondary elements and trace elements
- In addition, each raw material contains organic matter

DCM<sup>°</sup>

fargro



### Trials

#### Aim of the trial

Is to determine how the **DCM Plant Based Feed** performs in General-Purpose Peat Free Retail Compost in a variety of crops.



### Trial 1- Strawberries in containers



3 individual pots of strawberry 'Roman' were purchased and potted up in a hanging trough in a General-Purpose Retail Peat Free mixed with perlite and 6grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed** added into the mix





### Trial 1: Growth over 3 weeks



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 (Day they were potted) 30th March 2025 (1 week later) 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (First flower appeared)



### Trial 1: Strawberry Trial - Part 2

- On the 12<sup>th</sup> April two more containers were planted.
  - Each container had 3 strawberry 'Roman' potted up in, all the same size plants.
- Both were planted up using a General-Purpose Peat Free compost with perlite.
  - The **blue round container** (Right) had 3grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed**
  - The **white long container** (left) had no fertiliser added, the control.





### Trial 1: Strawberry Trial - Part 2: Growth over 3 weeks





12<sup>th</sup> April (Day they were potted)

24<sup>th</sup> April (3 weeks on)



### Trial 1: Strawberry Trial - Part 2: Conclusion

- Despite being potted three weeks earlier, the strawberries treated with 6g/L of DCM Plant Based Feed showed a notable growth advantage within their own 3week period. These plants displayed vigorous upright growth and had begun flowering by the end of the trial period.
- The strawberries treated with 3g/L of DCM Plant Based Feed developed larger leaves than the unfertilised control group
- The control group exhibited **slower overall growth** and **did not produce flowers** during the same 3-week timeframe.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Control

3grams per litre

6grams per litre



## Trial 1: Strawberry Trial - Part 2: Conclusion

### Trial Update - 10<sup>th</sup> May

Just over a month after being potted up, flowers were visible on the container with 3 grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed** (Right), where the control had no flowers (Left).





### Trial 1: Strawberry Trial - Part 2: Nutrient Uptake Observations

Once the plants were established, EC readings were taken from each pot. The planter with **6g per litre of DCM Plant Based Feed**, potted for nearly two months and now **fruiting**, recorded an **EC of 2.0**, indicating continued nutrient uptake.

The **3g per litre** planter, potted for around a month and **just beginning to flower**, showed an **EC of 1.7**.

The **control pot**, with no fertiliser, had a lower **EC of 1.2**, reflecting **reduced nutrient availability**, slower growth, and **no flower development**.



Control – 1.2 EC

3 grams per litre– EC 1.7





### Trial 2: Cucumber

- Two cucumbers, originally purchased in 7cm pots were potted up into 1 litre pots on 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 1 pot had **3 grams per litre of the DCM Plant Based Feed incorporated** with the General-Purpose Peat-Free compost and the other had no fertiliser incorporated into the soil (Control)
- After 3 weeks the one with 3grams of DCM Plant Based Feed (Left) had 3 new leaves and taller growth and the Control (Right) had only produced 1 new leaf and not much height.





### **Trial 2:** Cucumber – 30<sup>th</sup> May Update

- After a couple of weeks, the control plant dampened off and was discarded.
- The plant with 3 grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed** continued to grow stronger with signs of new growth and even fruiting.
- Although the dampening of the control plant could have simply been natural, it is interesting to note the plant with DCM Plant Based Feed was not affected despite being in the same conditions





### Trial 2: Cucumber – continued

 The surviving cucumber that was showing evidence of new growth was then potted up into a larger pot with 3 grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed** and will be interesting to note how it influences the crop.





### Trial 3: Salad crops

- A smaller trial was conducted with mixed baby leaf lettuce and rocket.
- The mixed lettuce leaf seeds were sown into a General-Purpose Peat Free retail compost mixed with 2 grams of DCM Plant Based Feed
- The rocket was sown into a General-Purpose Peat Free retail compost without any DCM Plant Based Feed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The DCM was applied as a top dress at 2 grams per litre on the rocket when there was signs of germination.





## Trial 3: Salad crops - DCM breakdown in the Rocket

- After the rocket had germinated 2 grams per litre of **DCM Plant Based Feed** was top dressed onto the tray of seedlings.
- As the plant began to grow and put out its first true leaves there was noticeable mould growing on the surface around the plant
- This shows the natural decomposition process of the organic ingredients by microorganisms so that it can provide nutrients to the plant





### Trial 3: Salad crops - 1 month of growth





### Trial 3: Salad crops - Conclusion

- The tray of rocket, which received a top dressing of 3g/L DCM Plant Based Feed after germination, initially showed leggy growth with wider spacing between leaves before true leaves developed. However, once DCM was applied, the plants quickly responded, producing large, healthy true leaves.
- In contrast, the mixed baby salad leaves, grown with 3g/L DCM DCM Plant Based Feed incorporated into the compost before sowing, showed compact, clustered growth from the start and produced an abundance of short, healthy leaves.
- Overall, both trays produced plentiful, high-quality edible leaves, but incorporating DCM Plant Based Feed at sowing delivered a quicker and more balanced growth response.



### **Trial 4:** Raspberries

- For this trial we used a raspberry plant, potted in a 15l pot, purchased in 2024. The first year it grew tall but only produced 4 raspberries on the entire plant.
- When the plant began to producing the first new shoots after winter,
  3grams per litre of DCM Plant Based Feed was used to top dress and then a fresh layer of bark was placed on top.





### **Trial 4:** Raspberries - progress



8 days later





## Trial 5: Conifer grown outdoors

- This conifer, grown in a 70-litre pot for 3 years has never been fed. Over the last year there was a lot of yellowing and lack of growth, so it was decided to plant it out in the ground.
- The conifer was planted in the ground.
- **DCM Plant Based Feed** was incorporated with soil to fill the hole; 210 grams was used (equivalent to 3grams per litre of the original pot size)





### **Trial 5**: Conifer grown outdoors - 3 weeks later



3 weeks later



After 3 weeks of being in the ground with **DCM Plant Based Feed**, the tree was showing a lot of new green growth, which it has failed to show in the past.

