

# GRANULAR

Biosolid Fertiliser from **DIGIT**

**DIGIT**  
SITE SERVICES

Guidance Booklet

## Introduction

Digit Site Services are at the forefront of recycling operations specifically tailored to agriculture. Our aim is to recycle suitable organic materials to agriculture lessening farms reliance upon imported chemical fertilisers.



With the recent rise in fertiliser prices granulated sewage sludge can now deliver significant reductions in crop growing costs.

Digit offers sound technical advice enabling clients to manage their businesses while complying with the increasing burden of environmental legislation.

### Granules

Our product is sewage sludge that has been dried to 95% dry matter and then pelletised. The material is a slow release fertiliser, high in Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Sulphur and organic matter with the added benefit that it can be applied by conventional fertiliser spreader. It has undergone an enhanced treatment process recognised by the Water Industry and legislators to enable its recycling to a wide range of agricultural crops.



## Advice to farmers and growers

### Guidance

The application of sewage sludge to land is a wide spread practice in the UK. There are statutory regulations and management practices surrounding its application to land. These are implemented by Digit as part of its role in monitoring the spreading of granules onto farmland.

The suitability of any field for granules is assessed from:

1. Chemical analysis of granules and receiving soil as per Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations.
2. Matching crop requirement with soil type, soil nutrient status and previous crops

3. Assessing appropriate spread rate and timing (as per relevant codes of practice)



The application of granules in the UK is regulated by country specific Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations and Waste Management Licensing Regulations.



## Advice to farmers and growers

Guidance in Scotland is provided by the PEPFA Code, CoGAP's in the rest of the UK, Code of Practice for the Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge and finally the BRC Safe Sludge Matrix.



A combination of the latest technology and equipment ensures that Digit provides a service that is carried out within its ISO 9001 : 2008 management system delivering full compliance with the relevant legislation and statutory obligations.

### Benefits

Benefits following the use of granules on Agricultural Land include.

1. An increase in crop yield and quality.
2. An improvement in the physical and chemical properties of the soil
3. Improvement of water holding capacity of soil.
4. Reduction in growing costs. (see Table 2)



**Table 1. Typical Nutrient Levels in Granules  
(for guidance only)**

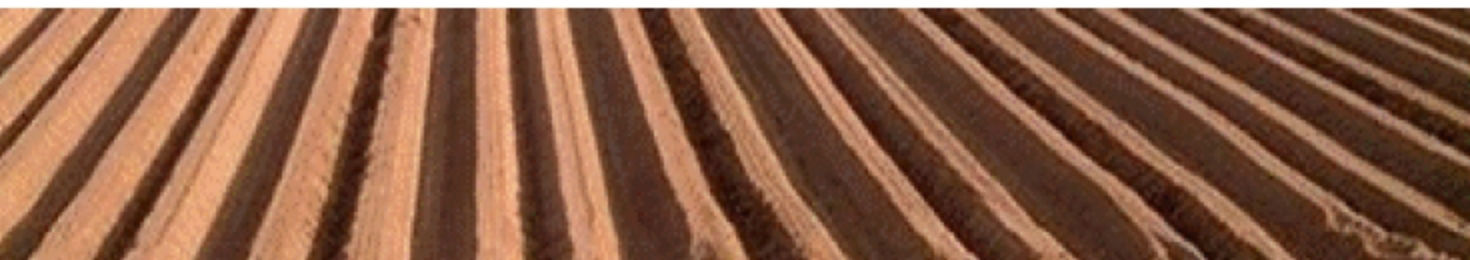
| Granules     | Total Nutrients kg |                               |                  | Available Nutrients<br>(Year 1) |                               |                  |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|              | N                  | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | N                               | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O |
| Kg/t (up to) | 35                 | 45                            | 4                | 18                              | 23                            | 3.8              |

**Table 2. Potential Cost Savings**

| Nutrient  | Sludge Type                 |                                       |  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|           | Value of granules per tonne | Value of granules per ha @5 tonnes/ha | Average Price p/kg conventional "bag" fertilizer |
| Nitrogen  | £19.25                      | £96.25                                | 55p  |
| Phosphate | £20.25                      | £101.25                               | 45p  |
| Potash    | £2.40                       | £12.00                                | 60p  |
| Totals    | £41.90                      | £209.50                               |  |

**Notes**

Table 2. is based on the fertilizer prices index contained within The John Nix Farm Management Pocketbook 2010



## Advice to farmers, landowners and growers

**Sludge Granules are a useful source of major plant nutrients which increase crop yield and quality. A crop will benefit from these major nutrients directly after spreading and over a much longer period than with conventional “bag” fertiliser.**



**The material is dry and free flowing allowing the material to be accurately applied by the farmers own spreader or by Digit as part of our service. Bulk delivery of granules allows for their storage within a barn or under a suitable cover sheet.**



**Granules are delivered in bulk or bags and can be spread using a conventional fertiliser spreader.**

**The nutrients from our Granules will not be sufficient alone to support plant growth through the growing season. The farmer may add to these to provide the crops total requirements.**



## Advice to farmers, landowners and growers

Digit can offer advice through one of its FACTS trained advisors to ensure that the Granules deliver cost savings when compared to more conventional bag fertiliser solutions. At the same time their use will improve soil organic matter content and water holding capacity.



If you are a grassland or arable farmer there is a place for sludge granules on your farm.

### Other uses

Granules can also be utilised in forestry and restoration projects. Do not hesitate to speak to Digit's forestry and restoration specialists for further advice.



### The next move

Contact Digit today so that we can further discuss your requirements and offer specific advice.

Email [info@digitsiteservices.co.uk](mailto:info@digitsiteservices.co.uk)

Web [www.digitsiteservices.co.uk](http://www.digitsiteservices.co.uk)

Tel. 01563 550111

Fax. 01563 550222



# DIGIT

## SITE SERVICES

For further information contact Digit Site Services Ltd

Telephone 01563 550111

Fax 01563 550222

Email [info@digitsiteservices.co.uk](mailto:info@digitsiteservices.co.uk)

Website [www.digitsiteservices.co.uk](http://www.digitsiteservices.co.uk)

Registered Office

1 Willock Street, KILMARNOCK, KA1 4HE

Company Registered in Scotland No. SC 154705

