

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE/PREPARATION AND OF THE COMPANY/UNDERTAKING

Product: J Arthur Bower's Sulphate of Potash NPK: 0-0-48
Supplier: William Sinclair Horticulture
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SOLID FERTILISER CONTAINING NO NITROGEN

2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

This product contains: Sulphate of Potash
Origin & Composition: Total Potassium Oxide (K₂O) 48% of which 39.8%K is soluble in water
Classification: UN classification is non-hazardous

3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

The fertiliser is basically harmless when handled correctly but the following points should be noted.

3.1 Human Health

Skin contact: Prolonged contact may cause some irritation
Eye contact: May cause irritation following contact. Irrigate eyes thoroughly.
Ingestion: Small quantities are unlikely to cause toxic effects.
Large quantities may give rise to gastro-intestinal disorders
Inhalation: Low toxicity dust but high concentration of air-borne material may cause
Irritation of the nose and upper respiratory tract with symptoms such as
sore throat and coughing. Generally regarded as a nuisance dust with no
Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL).
See HSE Guidance Notes EH 40 and HSG 173



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4. FIRST AID MEASURES

Product

Skin contact: Wash the affected area with soap and water

Eye contact: Bathe the eye with running water or eyewash for 10 minutes.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Give milk or water to drink. Obtain medical advice if more than a small quantity has been swallowed.

Inhalation: Move from source of exposure to dust. Keep warm and at rest.

Fire and Thermal Decomposition products

Inhalation: Remove from source of exposure to fumes. Keep warm and at rest.

Obtain medical advice if symptoms persist

5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Not flammable. In intense heat, product decomposition will release hazardous ammonia and sulphur oxide fumes.

When the fertiliser is not directly involved in the fire use the best means available to control the fire.

When the fertiliser is involved:-

- a. Avoid breathing the fumes. Wherever possible wear an approved breathing mask when fighting a fire or when fumes are being emitted.
- b. Call the fire brigade
- c. Use plenty of water or dry powder
- d. Open doors and windows to give maximum ventilation
- e. Do not allow contaminated run-off to run into drains.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Sweep up into suitable labelled container and dispose of safely. Depending on the degree and nature of contamination dispose of by use as a fertiliser or to authorised waste facility.

Do not contaminate watercourses – inform appropriate authorities if contamination occurs.



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7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling: Avoid excessive generation of dust. Avoid unnecessary exposure to the atmosphere to prevent moisture pick-up

Storage : The basic requirements are to avoid contamination and fire. Keep away from sources of heat, fire and explosion, and away from all combustible materials and chemical substances. **Do not permit smoking** or the use of naked lights in the storage area. Do not block stack pallets. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place away from children and pets.
Further storage guidance is given in HSE Guidance IND (G) 230L

Use: Use only as a home garden fertiliser as directed on the pack

8. EXPOSURE CONTROL/PERSONAL PROTECTION

8.1 Occupational Exposure Limits

No specific official limits.

ACGIH recommended value (1995-1996) for inhalable particulate: TLV/TWA 10mg/m³

8.2 Precautionary and engineering measures

Avoid high dust concentration and provide ventilation where necessary

8.3 Personal Protection

Wear suitable gloves when handling the product over long periods. Use approved dust Respirators if airborne concentrations are high. Wash hands after handling the product and observe good hygiene practices.

9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance: White or off-white crystal or powder.

Odour: Odourless

pH water solution: 5.5 – 8.5 (5% solution)

Bulk density: Normally between 1050-1100kg/m³

Solubility in water: Soluble in water. Most formulations are hygroscopic

Flammability: Not flammable

10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Stable under normal storage and handling conditions. Reacts violently with aluminium powder at high temperatures. Solutions may corrode aluminium or iron vessels on prolonged contact.

Do not weld or apply heat to equipment that may have contained the fertiliser without first washing thoroughly to remove all fertiliser.



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11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Acute toxicity: Depends on composition. LD50 acute oral rat 6600mg/kg.
Eye contact: Irritation
Skin contact: Irritation after longer exposure
Ingestion: See section 3
Inhalation: See sections 3 and 4

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Ecotoxicity: The product is used as a fertiliser at rates of 700kg/ha and is not harmful to the environment when used as recommended. Low toxicity to aquatic life.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Depending on the degree of contamination, dispose of by use on farm/garden by spreading thinly on open ground or to an authorised waste facility. Take care to avoid the contamination of watercourses and drains. Inform the appropriate water authority in the event of accidental watercourse contamination.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

14.1 UN classification
Classified as non-hazardous

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

15.1 EU Directives
76/116/EEC (Relating to fertilisers)

15.2 National Regulations
The Fertilisers Regulations (1991) and subsequent amendments

16. OTHER INFORMATION

This safety data sheet provides health and safety information. The product is to be used in a way consistent with best horticultural practice. Individuals handling this product should be informed under COSHH of the recommended safety precautions and should have access to this information. The product information in this data sheet is to the best of our knowledge correct at the date of publication. William Sinclair Horticulture disclaims any liability for any loss or damage resulting from reliance on this information.