

Naturally occurring nutrients offer sustainable fertiliser option

Farmers and growers considering their fertiliser options ahead of next season should be conscious of the wider environmental and sustainability benefits that opting for naturally mined minerals can offer.

The Natural Nutrition range from Origin Fertilisers focusses on products that are naturally produced, rather than synthetically made, and are an ideal choice for farmers looking to reduce their environmental impact and are suited to those running regenerative systems.

Products in the range may not be a spherical ball similar to a synthetic fertiliser and can produce slight surface dust when spreading due to being naturally ground from rock, but all contain key nutrients, including phosphate, potash, sulphur and calcium, which are essential for crop and soil nutrition, as Toby Ward, nutrition agronomist at Origin Fertilisers explains.

“Growers shouldn’t be put off by differing granule sizes or varying colours across the range, this is completely natural as the product has been mined from the earth.

“This means they can produce slightly more dust when applied than artificial products, but the benefits to the environment from a naturally occurring mineral will help improve soil biology, boost soil nutrient properties, and increase carbon availability,” says Mr Ward.

All the products in the range can be included as part of Origin’s Nutri-Match prescription fertiliser service, which produces tailored fertiliser blends based on soil analyses. These include Natural Nutrition PK, which offers plant available phosphate, potash, sulphur and calcium in both immediately available and sustained release forms to help replenish soil nutrient reserves.

Other products include Gafsa, a naturally occurring soft rock phosphate rich in calcium, sulphur and magnesium. These three nutrients are beneficial to grassland and arable farmers alike, comments Mr Ward.

“Gafsa offers an immediate phosphate availability after spreading and provides a sustained release of nutrients for 3-4 years.

“Calcium is proven to build cell and soil structure, while sulphur boosts protein levels in grass and increases DM production through making better use of nitrogen. Magnesium helps facilitate several chemical reactions which provide animals with energy to move and grow, and is key for plant growth and sugar production.”

Other products in the Natural Nutrition range include Polysulphate, a well-known UK-mined prolonged release sulphur along with potassium, calcium and magnesium in readily absorbed forms. It can spread to 36m, as can Patentkali, which contains potash, sulphur and magnesium. All products in the Natural Nutrition range will help sustain a fertile and nutrient rich soil.