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Ostara begins production on Crystal Green slow-release, renewable, environmentally safe fertiliser

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Crystal Green, the world's first slow-release fertiliser -- with a combination of nitrogen, phosphorus and magnesium -- is now in commercial production.

The product has been proven in industry and academic trials and has applications in the turf, nursery and speciality agriculture industries.

It was developed by **Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies** and is being marketed through national and regional distributors in North America.

Ostara nutrient operations vice-president Jim Zablocki said Crystal Green is the only renewable fertiliser that can be used in the same manner as widely used monoammonium phosphate or coated products, with high levels of slow-release magnesium.

He said: "Its crystalline structure allows us to form a completely new chemistry for our industry. Yet unlike other slow-release products it is far more predictable as it is not affected by excessive moisture, bacteria and temperature changes. And its longevity is as reliable as coated products. Your plants will see the difference, and the environment will thank you for both what its made from and how it releases. We just made your phosphorous fertiliser a lot more dependable with extra benefits to the environment."

Crystal Green can be substituted for any existing phosphorous source so there is no need to change equipment or application methods.

It is being produced in Portland at the Durham Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility by Clean Water Services, a water resource management utility company serving more than 500,000 customers in Washinton state.

Ostara harvests the phosphorous and ammonia from municipal wastewater and adds magnesium, which causes a chemical reaction resulting in crystalline ammonium phosphate hexa-hydrate.

President and CEO of Ostara Phillip Abrary said: "Unlike fertilisers mined or derived from hydrocarbon sources, Crystal Green is produced from a recycled and renewable product that is safe to use on plant material. In addition, the product's slow-release characteristics provide a source of phosphorous that will not leach into the water table. Compared to conventional fertiliser manufacturing, the production of Crystal Green is highly energy-efficient and is produced without adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere."

Crystal Green is a clean by-product of the wastewater treatment process, whereby the phosphorous and ammonia are recovered to create a leading-edge fertiliser and the only slow-release magnesium fertiliser available.

The product was initially developed at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and it has been selected to be showcased at the BC Pavilion during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.