



# Vita Nova Tuinplanten switches its entire nursery over to Ekote coated fertilizers

**‘High-quality fertilizer at a good price’**

**In 2018, after a year of extensive testing, Mark Elst of Vita Nova Tuinplanten in Meer, Belgium, switched his entire nursery over to Ekote coated fertilizers. ‘Ekote has more than proven its worth. I haven’t noticed any difference at the nursery compared to the expensive coated fertilizers we were using before. So it all comes down to price.’**

Vita Nova Tuinplanten offers a wide range of garden plants that are delivered to garden centres, wholesalers, and gardeners. Rooted cuttings as well as P11 planting materials are either cultivated

by the nursery itself or bought in for further cultivation into plants in small and large-sized pots. In addition, Vita Nova has a range of ornamental shrubs and hedge plants growing in open fields.

‘At our nursery, we make almost exclusive use of coated fertilizers,’ Mark tells us. ‘In 2017, we started testing Ekote coated fertilizers on a wide variety of crops. Our main concern is that the fertilizer must

be of an excellent quality. This was therefore the sole purpose of the tests performed at our nursery: to prove Ekote’s quality in relation to the coated fertilizers we were using earlier and which are generally well-known among tree nurseries.’

#### Summer of 2017

The summer of 2017 was characterized by highly changeable weather. The extremely hot and dry temperatures of June were followed by unsettled,

often very wet, weather in July. August was slightly calmer in that respect. ‘June, especially, was a particularly sweaty month,’ Mark continues. ‘The high temperatures that month immediately put Ekote to the test. However, despite the high temperatures in the pots, the release of Ekote remained stable. Of course, there is an increase in release as temperatures rise, but the trick is to keep it stable and avoid peaks. At the end of the growth cycle, I saw no difference in quality compared to the reference fertilizer. Ekote produced good results. This also indicates that the stable release of Ekote ensures that enough nutrients remain in the granules for the end of the growth cycle, even after a hot month such as June 2017. When the quality is excellent and the price is even better, it really makes you think.’

#### Latest coating

Jo Slijpen, Ekompany advisor, wants to emphasize the fact that Ekote has a story to tell. ‘The combination of our production process and modern coating makes Ekote a high-quality yet economical alternative to existing coated fertilizers. Our main priorities are respect for the environment and quality,’ Jo explains. ‘Without going into too much detail, the production process saves on a large amount of energy and labour (80% when compared to other coated fertilizers). This is mainly due to the continuous nature of the process in combination with the “bio-based” coating. Our coating is the very latest on the market and has a vegetable oil as its main component. One effect of this is that our production process can run at a low temperature and, additionally, does not produce any waste products. These are advantages from which the grower eventually benefits.’

#### To take the step or not?

‘In 2018, I decided to switch the entire nursery over to Ekote,’ Mark Elst adds. ‘The main reason for this decision was its quality in combination with its price. Ekote has proven to be an excellent alternative with a very competitive price that is driven by innovation. Another thing that appeals is the environmentally-friendly manner in which these fertilizers are produced. This is becoming increasingly important in the chain.’

‘I use Ekote Ornamentals Plus with a life span of nine and twelve months. In addition, I use two variants with a high potash content and a life span of six and nine months. Our pot sizes vary from 1.5 litres to 25 litres. In general, we mix in around three to four grams per litre, depending on the crop. We use a Maier dosing unit to mix in the fertilizer during potting. It works great!’

#### Future

During the first year that the entire nursery had switched to Ekote, there was an extremely dry and especially hot summer. Mark Elst explains: ‘Of course, we had gained some experience of this in June 2017, but 2018 was even more extreme. You sometimes hear tales in the sector about problems arising in relation to the release of fertilizers. Fortunately, we didn’t encounter any problems of this nature with Ekote, as the release remains stable even under extreme conditions.’

‘I am extremely confident about the future,’ Mark concludes. ‘I have found a reliable partner in Ekompany and Ekote. The quality is good, the service is excellent, and the company is easily approachable and open to ideas.’



Producent: Ekompany International  
[info@ekompany.eu](mailto:info@ekompany.eu)  
 +31 (0)46 727 1000

**ekote**  
 ORNAMENTALS