What You Need to Know About Purchasing Fulvic Acid

Product Authenticity

Among the numerous fulvic acid products available to consumers are many disingenuously marketed as pure and concentrated materials. These products often contain negligible amounts of fulvic acid whereas others include materials, such as seaweed extracts, molasses, or lignosulphonates, that impart a certain color, pH, smell, or other quality commonly associated with true fulvic acid. Still others, notably dry products, are comprised of raw or partially-processed humate with unextracted fulvic acid. These products are particularly misleading in that they contain and test for both humic and fulvic acids, but without extraction they remain bio-actively unavailable. They defraud consumers and damage the reputation of humic substances.

Vendors may list the fulvic acid content of their products as a guaranteed analysis. However, these numbers are meaningless without the test methodology to support the claim. Physical and chemical analyses should be referenced to provide evidence of extraction and non-adulteration. Until recently there has been no widely recognized and approved method to assay for fulvic acid content. Fortunately, there is a new standardized method prepared by the HPTA (Humic Products Trade Association) under the guidance of the AAPFCO (Association of American Plant Food Control Officials). Commonly referred to as the Lamar or HPTA method, it was published in the Journal of AOAC International.

NEW STANDARDIZED METHOD

A New Standardized Method for Quantification of Humic and Fulvic Acids in Humic Ores and Commercial Products

Consumers are advised to be cautious of manufacturers and vendors who fail to provide test results using this validated method for the assay of hydrophobic fulvic acid content.

Production Economics

Low-cost fulvic acid powders are especially dubious regarding their authenticity, purity, and integrity. Vendors who retail these products at a couple thousand dollars per dry ton would be challenged to turn a profit while bearing expenses associated with the extraction of the material. Moreover, unless a sophisticated drying technology is employed, fulvic acids are easily damaged when dried. Most of these low-cost products are raw humate materials that have been finely ground, a mixture of crudely dried humic and fulvic acids, or non-humic substances.

Once again, consumers are advised to heed products with prices that are inconceivably and disparately low, and to investigate their quality through product handling and testing.

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