



Shetland is a remote, wind swept island group 200 miles north of Aberdeen with a population of 23,000. The economy is based on fish and mussel farming as well as the oil terminal at Sullom Voe.

Traditionally, Shetland was full of small crofts (farms). The menfolk went to the fishing, with the womenfolk along with their normally large families running the croft. Generally, they would have sheep, a milking cow, hens and maybe a pig. There would be a 'midden' where all the muck, and waste would be put. Seaweed would be gathered after any gales and added to the midden where it would rot over the winter months.

This excellent mix would be spread onto the land in the Spring, and kale, turnips, potatoes and other vegetables would be grown.

Böd Ayre Products has 'revived' the use of seaweed, and sell the natural products to gardeners and horticulturalists as well as farmers.

The seaweed is harvested by hand from around Shetland's shores, cutting fresh and leaving 4 – 6" to allow the plant to regrow. Kelp seaweed is not removed as this is otter habitats.

There are many varieties of seaweeds, however, at present, Böd Ayre Products focus on one main type, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which grows plentiful in sheltered areas.

The environment is so unique in Shetland. Having the Gulf Stream/North Atlantic tangling with the North Sea to create a marine life unlike that of any other of part of the UK - the seaweed is rich in all the natural minerals and nutrients (some 20 times more than land plants) and Böd Ayre is making it available to use in homes, gardens and farms.

Böd Ayre Products process the hand harvested seaweed into seaweed extract, dried seaweed granules, meal and a now a powder. All these products are sold as plant foods and animal feeds and are organically certified by the Scottish Organic Producers Association

Böd Ayre is aiming, within the next year, to process certain types of seaweeds for human consumption.

Gardeners:

The powder, called 'Sea-Poodir' can be used as a foliar spray, by adding 40 grams to up to 20 litres of water, and giving a good stir, before spraying immediately.

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The 'Sea-Poodir' can also be applied neat, by dusting ever so lightly (use an empty pepper pot or similar) over growing carrots and broad beans to keep carrot, black and green fly at bay.

Farmers:

Throughout May, the Special Offer to Farmers is to Buy 210 litre barrel of the Sea-X (partly filtered) and get a second 210 litre barrel free!! And free delivery! This product can be spread using a slurry tanker or similar.

Generally, plants fed on seaweed are more resistant to diseases and pests. Seaweed is full of the natural and correct levels of all the vitamins, minerals and trace elements that the land, animals and ourselves require for health and wellbeing – it contains all Mother Nature's goodness.

So - whether you have a thousand-acre farm, or only a window box - the results are the same - marvellous!

If you have any queries, or wish to place an order, please

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