



Addyman 149

Health Department
CITY HALL

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Potash

For Potash Manures, Kauri, Minette of Potash, Proprietary Potash etc

Take .5 gram of substance & dissolve in water & a small amount of dil HCl. filter off Sand. & wood ash. Take filtrate add .5 gram pure $HgCl_2$ & 15 cc $PtCl_4$ (10%) evaporate to a party mass - add 2 cc $PtCl_4$, shake round the beaker, allow to stand for 5 minutes & filter through two countopained papers - Allow the whole clear liquid to run through - then wash 3 cc of $PtCl_4$ runs the beaker & wash the ppt - when the liquid has entirely passed through the rest of the ppt turns brownish to the paper & well washed with strong alcohol - dried & weighed -

The addition of $HgCl_2$ is to convert all K_2SO_4 into Hg_2SO_4 .
The preliminary washing with $PtCl_4$ is to remove any double compounds of Platinum with Magnesia & Sodium which are found in alcohol



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Qualitative test - dip a Pt wire with a loop into a strong acid soln of the supposed potash compound and view through a piece of cobalt glass, the coloration produced clearly when held in the Bunsen flame - the red purple tint produced is constant with a known Potash salt similarly treated -

Official Methods

Reagents -

1- (a) Ammon chloride soln -

Dissolve 100 grms Ammon chloride in 500 cc of water add from 5 to 10 grms of pulverized potassium-platinum chloride, and shake at intervals for 6 or 8 hours - the mixture is allowed to settle over night and filtered, and the residue is ready for the preparation of a fresh supply -

(b) Platinum soln -

The Pt soln used contains 1 gram of metallic Pt

(2.1 grams of H_2 PCl₅) in every 10 cc



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② Methods of making soils

(a) with potash salts & mixed fertilizers

Boil 10 grams of sample with 300 cc water for 30 minutes, since of mixed fertilizers add to the hot soln a slight excess of NH_4O_2 and then sufficient Ammon Oxalate (powd) to put lime present -

Cool. dilute to 500 cc mix & pass thro a dry filter - In case of

Muriate & sulphate of Potash, sulphate of Potash & Magnesia and Kainit, dissolve and dilute to 500 cc without the addition of Ammonia or Ammon Oxalate -

(B) with organic Compounds

When it is desired to determine the total potash in organic substances, such as, cotton seed meal, tobacco stems, etc. saturate 10 grams with conc H_2 SO₄ & ignite in a muffle at a low red heat to destroy organic matter - add a little conc HCl, warm slightly in order to loosen the mass from the dish and proceed as directed under (3)(a)

Determination - (3) (a)In mixed fertilizers

Evaporate 50 cc of Soln made according to (2) corresponding to 1 gram of the sample, nearly to dryness, add 1 cc of dilute H_2SO_4 (1-1) evaporate to dryness and ignite to whiteness — As all the Potash is in form of sulphate — no loss need be apprehended by volatilization of Potash & a full red heat must be maintained until the residue is perfectly white — dissolve the residue in hot water, using at least 20cc for each decigram of K₂O — add a few drops of hydrochloric acid and platinum soln in excess — Evaporate on a spgr - .8645, avoiding absorption of ammonia — Wash the ppt thoroughly with 80% alcohol both by decantation and on the filter continuing the washings after the filtrate is colorless, Wash finally with 10 cc of Ammon chloride soln (1)(a) to remove impurities from the ppt — and repeat this washing 5 or 6 times — Wash again thoroughly with 50% alcohol and dry the ppt for 30 minutes @ 100° — the ppt should be perfectly sol in water —

(B) Muriate of Potash

Dilute 25 cc of the soln prepared according to (2) (a) with 25 cc water, acidify with a few drops of Hydrochloric acid, add 10 cc of Pt soln and evaporate to a thick paste, treat the residue as under (3) (a) —

(c) Sulphate of Potash, Sulphate of Potash and Magnesia & Kainit

Dilute 25 cc of the solid Proprietary according to (2)(a), with
 25 cc water and mix with a few drops of Hydrochloric acid, and add
 15 cc of Pt soln. Incorporate the mixture and proceed as under
 (3)(a) except that 25 cc portions of Ammonium Chloride soln
 should be used.

(d) water-sol potash in wood ashes and Cotton Hull ash

use the above mixture making the soln according to (2)(a)
 and pay special attention to the last sentence (3)(a)