



Lawns, Landscapes and Gardens: Adjusting Fertilizer Product Recommendations

FACT SHEET

When you request us to make a fertilizer application recommendation based on the soil analysis, we will suggest a fertilizer of a particular N-P-K fertilizer grade (ex. 20-3-3) that will supply the appropriate amount of nutrients. However, there may be uncertainty when the specific fertilizer grade that we recommended is not available from your local supplier.

This is not a problem; we are more interested in the proportion of N (nitrogen), P (phosphorus) and K (potassium) of the fertilizer. A fertilizer with a similar N-P-K grade that is locally available can be readily substituted for the product that we recommended.

Below are tables that list several common fertilizers, grouped by N-P-K category. The fertilizer that we recommended should be listed. Any of the other fertilizers in that group, or one with similar analysis, can supply nutrients in the proportions that we suggest.

Nitrogen Fertilizers	
31-0-0	38-0-0
37-0-0	46-0-0

Starter Fertilizers	
4-12-0	10-6-4
5-12-5	18-24-6
9-17-9	14-25-10

Equal N, P, K Fertilizers	
10-10-10	15-15-15
12-12-12	19-19-19

High N, Low P & K Fertilizer			
19-4-4	25-3-5	28-3-3	32-3-4
20-3-3	26-3-3	29-2-3	32-4-4
20-5-5	27-2-2	29-3-4	33-3-6
21-3-3	27-3-3	30-3-6	36-6-6
25-3-3	28-2-3	30-4-4	37-3-3

High N, Low P & Medium K Fertilizers			
18-3-6	20-5-10	28-3-10	30-4-10
19-5-9	23-3-13	28-3-12	31-3-10
16-8-8	25-5-8	29-4-8	32-3-10
19-5-9	25-5-15	30-0-15	34-3-11

If you use a fertilizer product other than the one we recommended, you need to adjust the fertilizer application rate so that the correct amount of nutrients will be applied. The following information and worksheet will help you calculate the proper rate.

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Calculating Your Fertilizer Product Application Rate:

1. On your soil test report, under the Annual Nutrient Requirement section, find the nitrogen recommendation we made – usually between 2 and 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Record this in the worksheet below (step A).
2. Find your fertilizer product in the list. If your product is not in the list, buy a fertilizer of similar analysis. Record the first number (N percentage) of the fertilizer grade (28 for 28-3-3) in the worksheet (step B).
3. Calculate the annual fertilizer application rate (steps C and D).
4. We usually recommend splitting the Annual Application Rate into 2-4 applications during the growing season. The suggested number of applications should be found in the comments section of your soil test report. (step E).
5. Divide the Annual fertilizer application rate of your fertilizer by the number of applications (step F). This is the amount of your fertilizer product that should be spread at each application.

Fertilizer Product Application Worksheet			
		Example	Your Fertilizer
A.	Annual nitrogen (N) application rate (pounds per 1,000 square feet) from soil test report.	4	
B.	Nitrogen analysis of available fertilizer product (e.g. 28-3-3).	28	
C.	Divide B by 100.	0.28	
D.	Annual fertilizer application rate, pounds per 1,000 square feet (divide A by C).	14.3	
E.	Number of applications during growing season.	4	
F.	Amount of fertilizer to apply at each application, pounds per 1,000 square feet (divide D by E).	3.6	