

Fertilizer Recommendations

Turf:

- *Typical guidelines suggest application of **1 pound of nitrogen per 1000ft² every 2 months** during the growing season, though nitrogen needs are generally less during the heat of summer for cool season grasses.
- *Try Alpha One's newest organic fertilizer, **4Iron!** - Lower in nitrogen with added iron that works great for summer applications where green is desired without excessive growth.
- *Lebanon's MESA slow release nitrogen is a great cost-effective way to provide strong, steady growth for early season and high use turf areas.

Trees & Shrubs:

- *Woodace fertilizers with IBDU slow release nitrogen cover the bases.
 - Longterm formula for once per year application on heavily planted landscapes saves time and money
 - ACRE formula is perfect for evergreens and other acid loving plants
 - Flower Special is the choice for intensive flower gardens where a balance feed is desired

***For organic vegetable gardens look for great products from Age Old Organics, Organix Supply, Alpha One, and Fertilome!**

Fertilizer Spreader Calibration

- First, determine the square footage of the area to be fertilized and purchase a sufficient quantity of your chosen granular product.
- Next, get a spreader large enough to match the relative size of job. Spreader manufacturers utilize varying systems to calibrate spreading rates, so it is important to keep track of owner's manuals or other attached instructions. The settings are often listed "light-moderate-heavy" or by a numerical scale.
- Examine the bag of fertilizer to find the recommended application rate. Some bags will include a list of various spreader brands and corresponding settings. Usually, however, it will be necessary to calculate an estimated rate setting.
- You will set the spreader at half of the estimated rate so that if the first application is either too heavy or too light, the second perpendicular application can be adjusted accordingly. It is often helpful to set the bag on end and draw lines with a marker dividing it into halves and then quarters to more easily gauge usage.

Example: Your lawn to be fertilized is 4000 ft². Brand X fertilizer suggests a 6 lb per 1000 ft² application rate. You will need to spread a total of 24 lbs of fertilizer (6 lbs. X 4 thousand). You have brand Z spreader with settings of 1 through 9 and the instructions indicate setting '8' for a 6 lbs / 1000 ft² application rate.

With a marker divide a 50 lb bag into four equal sections and set the spreader on '4'. Begin the first application walking a constant speed in one direction and finish covering the entire area at the same setting. If you use more than one quarter of the bag on the first application, turn the setting to '3'; if you used significantly less, set the spreader to '5'. Walk the area again, but this time perpendicular to the direction of the first application. Once you know which setting is correct, mark it on the spreader in permanent marker to prevent future guesswork.

**Be sure to store left over fertilizer in a dry location and out of the sun to save it for the next time.*