



HOW TO HAVE A GREEN, HEALTHY LAWN

LONGER GRASS IS BETTER

Some people think that healthy lawns look like a putting green. The fact is, longer grass results in longer, healthier roots. Raising the setting on the lawnmower will do a lot to help grass grow thick and healthy. A thick lawn also helps prevent weeds.

LAWNS NEED NUTRIENTS

Regular feeding helps the lawn develop healthy roots and blades. Start with a spring feed around the first mow. Follow with a late summer, fall and late fall feeding to better ensure lush results.

TIPS TO FERTILIZE

There are a lot of options available when choosing fertilizer. Here are some quick fertilizer facts to make the best recommendation for the customer's needs.

Fertilizer burns

It's no secret that having too much fertilizer can burn a lawn. One very distinct advantage of liquid fertilizer is controlling how much is applied to reduce the possibility of burning the lawn. Granular fertilizer can be difficult to apply evenly, and using it will likely burn the lawn. To combat a burnt lawn, be sure to water it generously after fertilization to help the soil take in the nutrients.

Fertilizer is not created equal

In the case of granular vs. liquid fertilizer, the important piece of information is the absorption rate, or how long it takes to sink into the soil. Most granular fertilizer requires 24-72 hours to become fully absorbed into the soil. The time for a liquid fertilizer is usually under 24 hours.

SEASONAL APPLICATION

Granular fertilizer is much more effective than liquid fertilizer for pre-winter fertilization. In cold weather, liquid fertilizer has a hard time penetrating the thatch to sink into soil. In climates that receive snow, a granular fertilization before the first snowfall can be extremely beneficial to an early spring start. It can help grass become healthier and greener much faster than without a pre-winter fertilization.

BROADCAST SPREADER FEATURES

Broadcast spreaders throw the material out in a wider swath, sometimes as wide as 8'. If there is a large area to cover, they can make short work of it. They are, however, a little trickier to use since you need to keep up a steady walking speed (usually 3 mph) and you need to be moving when you activate the spreader. Some broadcast spreaders come with side deflectors, which let you get close to sidewalks, beds and driveways without spreading material on these adjacent areas.

CALIBRATING YOUR SPREADER

It is always a good idea to calibrate your own spreader, even if the manufacturer provides guidelines for setting the spreader with different products. It's easy to calibrate and if you make note of your results, you only have to do it once for each product. See example on next page:

We want to apply fertilizer at a rate of 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The fertilizer comes in a 50-lb. bag.

Step-by-Step Procedure (calibration)	Example
Take a sheet of plastic or a tarp (ideally something bigger than 10' x 10' but smaller will work too) and lay it on the ground. If it's breezy, put something heavy on each corner to keep it in place.	
Set your spreader to the setting you think will give you approximately the application rate you want. If the material you want to spread is coarse and granular (for example, corn gluten meal), set the spreader as wide open as it will go. Don't worry about getting it exactly right because you can adjust it later.	Our fertilizer is a fairly coarse, granular material, so we open the spreader up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way.
Empty a small amount of fertilizer or other material into the spreader and run it over the area you marked off as if you were making an application to your lawn.	We pour about 10 lbs. of fertilizer into the spreader.
Carefully gather up the material you spread on the surface.	
Take a container of some kind (you'll use it to weigh the fertilizer you just spread) and weigh it using a household scale.	Our bowl weighs 8 oz.
Pour the material you spread into the container and weigh it again.	Bowl plus fertilizer weighs 32 oz. (or 2 lbs.)
Subtract the weight of the container.	Total weight (32 oz.) minus weight of bowl (8 oz.) = 24 oz. (or 1.5 lbs.).
Calculate the conversion factor for 1,000 square feet (1,000 square feet divided by the square footage of the test area).	1,000 square feet divided by 100 square feet (size of the test area) = 10. Our conversion factor is 10.
Adjust the spreader setting according to your results.	In our example, we want an application rate of 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft., so we have two options. We can either open up the spreader a bit more to get the target application rate or we can close the spreader a little and plan on making two passes with the spreader at half the recommended rate.
Write down the results so that the next time you'll know exactly what setting to use for this particular product.	



XP Stand-On Spreader Sprayer Shown

Liquid Application Reference Guide (The TANK™ Spreader / Sprayer)

Speed	4 mph	5 mph	6 mph	7 mph	8 mph
Pump pressure setting – 20 psi					
Output – 1.17 gal./min.					
Gal./acre	17.4	13.8	11.6	10.1	8.7
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0
Pump pressure setting – 25 psi					
Output – 1.46 gal./min.					
Gal./acre	21.7	17.3	14.5	12.6	10.9
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3
Pump pressure setting – 30 psi					
Output – 1.75 gal./min.					
Gal./acre	26.0	20.8	17.4	15.2	13.0
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	3.0	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.5
Note: The above values are based on FIVE Tee-Jet TF-VS2 tips in CP25600 – NYR Quick Tee-Jet caps. Manufacturer's information and actual values may vary based on chemical additives, temperatures, as well as system cleanliness and wear.					

Liquid Application Reference Guide (XP S/S)

Speed	4 mph	5 mph	6 mph
25 psi, one Tee-Jet X "R11001VB" tip and two "OC-01 Brass" tips			
Output – 0.237 gal./min.			
Gal./acre	9.10	7.33	6.10
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	1.05	0.84	0.70
30 psi, one Tee-Jet X "R11001VB" tip and two "OC-01 Brass" tips			
Output – 0.261 gal./min.			
Gal./acre	10.90	8.80	7.30
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	1.25	1.01	0.84
35 psi, one Tee-Jet X "R11001VB" tip and two "OC-01 Brass" tips			
Output – 0.281 gal./min.			
Gal./acre	12.70	10.30	8.50
Gal./1,000 sq. ft.	1.46	1.18	0.98
Note: The above values are based manufacturer's information, and actual values may vary based on chemical additives, temperatures, as well as system cleanliness and wear. Boomless 3-tip system XP S/S.			