

CALCULATING FERTILIZER RATES FOR HOME LAWNS

In order to give your lawn the nutrition that it needs, but keeping the lagoon free of excess nitrogen and phosphorus, it is important to apply the proper amount of fertilizer. Follow this step-by-step process to find the amount of fertilizer you will need for your lawn.

A bag of fertilizer always has a ratio of Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (N-P-K) and it is expressed as a percentage in the bag that you are purchasing. For example, a bag that is labeled 20-0-8 means that there is 20% N, 0% P and 8% K. In other words, a 50lb bag of 20-0-8 would have 10lbs N, 0lbs P, and 4lbs K. For more information read: "St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010> and "Homeowner Best Management Practices for the Home Lawn" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep236>

Step I. Calculating Your Lawn Size to be Fertilized

Lot size, width in feet (A): _____ Lot size, depth in feet (B): _____

Lot size, in square feet (**A x B**) = **Carry number down to box below labeled #1**

Areas to be added together and then subtracted from number above:

- a. House footprint (length x width) _____ b. Driveway (length x width) _____
c. Walkways (length x width) _____ d. Pool/Patio (length x width) _____
f. Landscaped beds (length x width) _____ (all beds added together)

Add a, b, c, d, e and f to find #2 and put in box.

Lot size (#1) minus (#2) total hardscape footage

#3 = square feet of lawn

Step II. Calculating Fertilizer Application Rate of Nitrogen

#4 = 1 lb per 1000 sq. ft.* divided by _____ % of nutrient in bag = lbs fertilizer per 1000 sq. ft.
(expressed numerically as .00)

Step III. Calculating Pounds of Nitrogen Fertilizer to Apply

#3 X #4 = lbs of Nitrogen needed for your lawn
1000 sq. ft.

Example: The bag of fertilizer you have purchased has a formulation of 20-0-8 (see top of page for complete explanation).

- 1 lb divided by .20 = 5 lbs of Nitrogen need per 1000 sq. ft. If your turf alone (#3 of **Step III**) is 4000 sq.ft. then: $\frac{4000 \text{ sq. ft. of lawn} \times 5 \text{ lbs N}}{1000 \text{ sq. ft.}} = 20 \text{ lbs of N}$ is needed for the turf area.
- If the total bag of fertilizer weighs 100 lbs with 20% N then you have 20 lbs of N in the bag and you will be able to cover the 4000 sq. ft. lawn with that one bag. If you buy a 50 lbs bag with the same formulation, then you will need two bags of fertilizer.

For additional help, please call the IRC Extension Master Gardener desk at (772) 770-5030 x 1.

*Maximum rate allotted for N per application. For P, maximum of 0.25 P₂O₅ per 1000 sq.ft. A soil or tissue test showing P deficiency is required before any P can be applied in IRC. Call the extension office (772) 770-5030 x 1 for more information.