Responsible Fertilizer Use & Calibration

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Responsible Fertilizer Use

- Right time, right place
  - Active growth – mid-March to mid-October
  - Fertilize turf and landscaping separately
    - Avoid impervious areas
  - Protect the waterfront
    - Use guard, maintain 10' buffer
  - Prevent runoff and leaching
    - 1/4" of irrigation after application
  - Sweep up spills or blow into grass
  - Use slow release nitrogen sources
    - 2% or less phosphorous

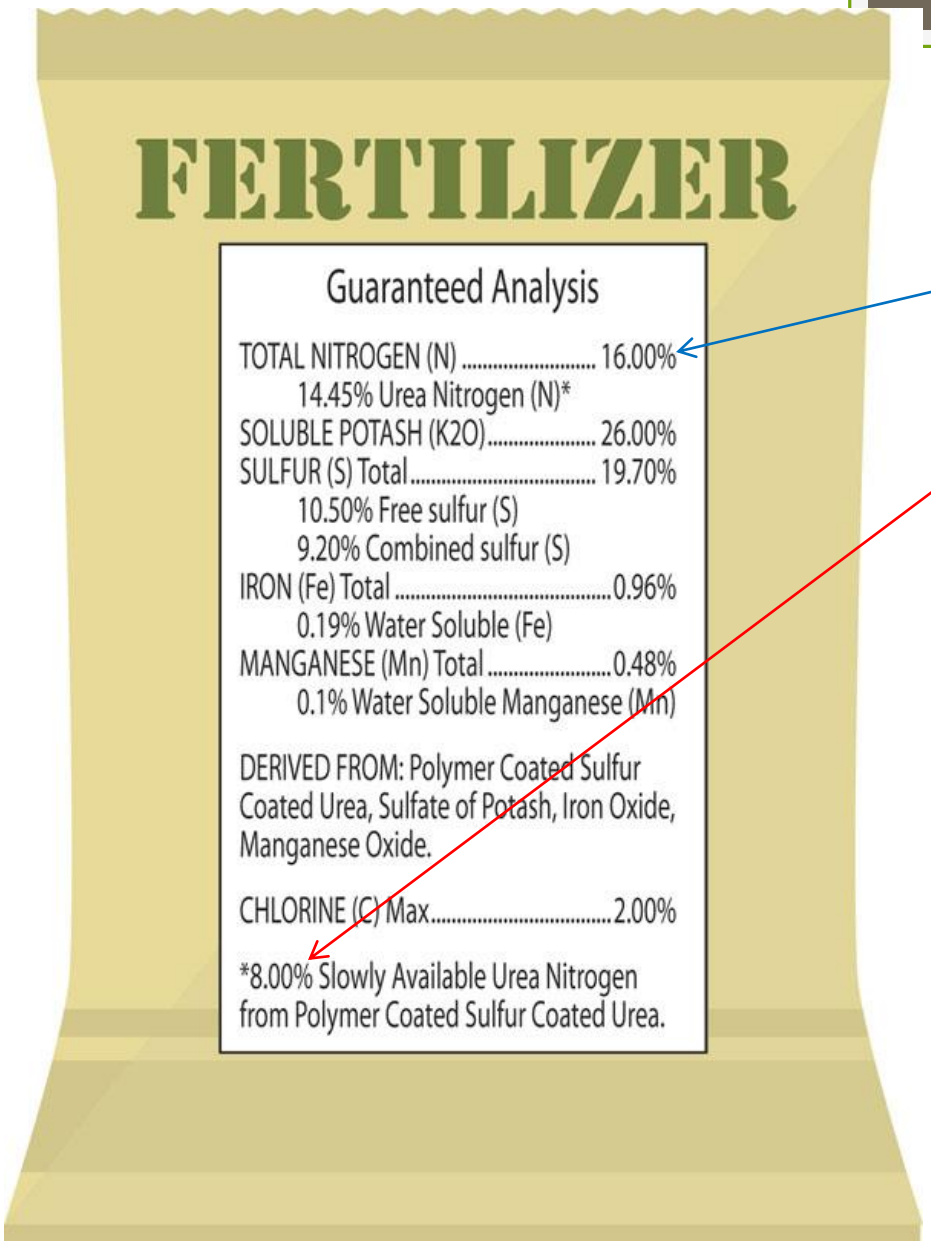
Amount of fertilizer:

- Soil test results (won't provide N info)
- Desired level of maintenance
- Amount of nitrogen in the product
- Percentage of nitrogen in product that is a slow-release form

	Total lbs N/year
St. Augustinegrass	2-5 lbs
Bahiagrass	2-4 lbs
Zoysiagrass	2-6 lbs

Slow release nitrogen

- >30% SRN = slow release product
  - Up to 1 lb nitrogen/application
- <30% SRN = quick release
  - Up to 0.5 lb nitrogen/application
- Spoon feeding method
  - Slow release over time
  - Smaller amounts, more applications



- Total N = 16%
- 8% slowly available form
- 8/16 = 0.5 x 100 = 50%
- **Amount/application?**

Calibrating a spreader

- Square footage
  - L x W = area
- Determine lbs nitrogen for application

Scenario

- St. Augustinegrass (4,000' sq)
- 4 lbs of nitrogen/year
  - March, May, July, September
  - 16% N – 50% SRN form
  - 1 lb/application
- How much fertilizer do I need/1,000' sq?
- How much do I need to buy total?

Calculations

- Lbs/1,000’ sq?
- 1 lb/16 = 0.0625 x 100 = 6.25 lbs
- 6.25 lbs/1,000’ sq
- Total lbs?
- 6.25 x 4 = 25 lbs total
- 25 lbs/application at 1 lb N/1,000’ sq

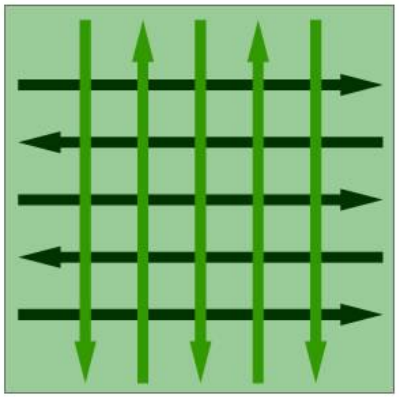
Only buy and open what you need…

Calibrating a spreader

- Drop spreader
- Rotary/broadcast spreader
  - Cover a lot of area quickly
  - Usually don't get streaks
  - Overlap outer edge of range (1/4)
- Should be calibrated frequently
  - Between uses
  - Between users
  - Between products

Steps

- Mark off 100’ x 10’ area = 1,000’ sq
- Fill hopper with 6.25 lbs of product, apply to marked area
- If product runs out before end of run, decrease setting – redo
- Weigh product left over, if 3 lbs left, open spreader – redo
- Consider cross-hatch pattern
  - Reduce product by half
  - Make two passes



- Close spreader when making turns
- Don’t apply to water or impervious areas
- Rinse the spreader after use
- Walk same speed
- Sweep up or blow off product

Demo

- Thank you!

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