Nitrogen Fertilizer Calculations “Cheat Sheet”

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This publication is intended to provide homeowners, athletic field managers, golf course superintendents, and other turfgrass professionals with a quick reference sheet for determination of the amount of fertilizer required for their lawns, based on the nitrogen analysis of any selected fertilizer.

To use this table you need to know three things:
✓ The nitrogen (N) analysis from the fertilizer you want to apply to your lawn
✓ The amount of N you want to apply per 1000 square feet of turf.
✓ The total square footage of your lawn.

For example:
✓ You have a fertilizer with an N-P-K analysis of 15-5-10.
✓ You want to apply ½ pound of N per 1000 square feet of turf.
✓ Your lawn area is 8500 square feet.

Go to the provided table. Look under the column titled “Fertilizer Analysis” and find 15 (the N analysis in the 15-5-10 fertilizer). Read the number under the column titled “1/2 lb. N”. In this case you will find 0.0033. This is the amount of fertilizer you need to apply ½ pound of N per square foot of turf. Now simply multiply 0.0033 lbs. by 8500 (the total square feet in the lawn).

0.0033 x 8500=28.05 lbs. of 15-5-10 fertilizer

So now you know that you need to apply 28.0 pounds of 15-5-10 fertilizer to your lawn, to apply ½ pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

This simple system will allow anyone to accurately calculate the amount of fertilizer required for any size lawn. It works with any type of fertilizer, organic and inorganic, as long as the N-P-K analysis of the fertilizer is known. Remember that your fertilizer applications should be based on sound agronomic practices and a recent soil test. *Never apply more than 1.0 lb. of soluble N per 1000 square feet, at any one time.

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