

BLENDINGS FACTSHEET

November 2005

- **Over 500 “Range Blends” to meet varying crop, soil and climatic conditions;**
- **“Custom Blends” are available on firm order to meet individual farmer needs.**

A blend (or fertilizer mixture) is one in which two or more different dry fertilizer products have been physically mixed together.

Blends allow fertilizer suppliers to source a limited range of fertilizers for use as blend ingredients, yet provide a wide range of blended products of varying nutrient content.

Incitec Pivot Limited has over 500 different blends on its product range to service farmer needs in South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Custom blends are also provided on request.

Incitec Pivot blends are available from strategically placed distribution centres throughout eastern and southern Australia.

Australian agriculture is diverse, embracing tropical and temperate regions, irrigated and rain-grown crops, and a wide variety of crops, pastures and soil types. Cultural practices and fertilizer application methods also vary. Consequently, a wide variety of fertilizers are required.

It would not be possible to meet this demand with compound fertilizers which require long production runs. With compounds, only a limited range of products can be offered.

Apart from the trace elements, the key ingredients used in blends are manufactured or sourced on world markets in bulk. The purchase price of blend ingredients, freight, handling, storage and inventory costs are all minimised with blends as they are procured in large quantities. Consequently, blends can usually be supplied at lower prices than compounds.

The use of blends is not confined to Australia. They are used in many other parts of the world including North America.

Blend Ingredients

The most commonly used blend ingredients are listed in the following table:

Incitec Pivot NPK Blend Ingredients:

Product	Common Name	N	P	K	S	Ca
Urea		+				
Cal-Am	Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN)	+				+
Gran-am	Ammonium sulfate Sulfate of Ammonia	+			+	
DAP	Diammonium phosphate	+	+			
MAP	Monoammonium phosphate	+	+			
Triple Super	Triple superphosphate (TSP)		+			+
SuPerfect Low Cad Super	Dried single superphosphate (SSP)		+		+	+
Muriate of Potash	Potassium chloride			+		
Sulfate of Potash	Potassium sulfate			+	+	
Potassium nitrate		+		+		



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In addition, magnesium (Mg) and the trace elements boron (B), copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn) can be added as the following products:

- **Granomag AL7** (magnesium oxide);
- **Granubor** (sodium borate);
- **Copper Granules** (Copper oxysulfate);
- **Zinc Sulfate Monohydrate.**

Molybdenum is not added to dry blends, but is available as an additive to superphosphate, eg. for use on legume-based pasture.

Compatibility

Not all ingredients are compatible with one another. As an example, urea and Cal-Am are incompatible in dry blends. The resultant blend will rapidly absorb moisture from the air.

There are also minimum and maximum limits to the concentrations at which some ingredients can be added to blends. At low addition rates, the blending equipment will not operate properly. Upper limits are placed on some ingredients due to operational constraints or to comply with Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances or Poisons legislation.

Blend ingredients may segregate during handling. This is minimised by choosing ingredients that are evenly sized and closely matched in their sizing with other blend ingredients.

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