

FERTILIZING PARKS, LAWNS AND HOME GARDENS

(Queensland, Northern New South Wales Factsheet)

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FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

If soil amelioration with lime, dolomite or gypsum is required, this should be done as soon as the ground is worked up for the first time, so that the product can be thoroughly incorporated into the soil.

Prior to planting, apply Incitec Pivot Q5 at 10 kg/100 m² (100 g/m²) and incorporate thoroughly into the top 10 to 20 cm of soil. This can be done on the same day as planting if necessary. Avoid direct contact with seed or transplants.

About 3 - 4 weeks after planting, apply Incitec Pivot Urea at 1 kg/100 m² (10 g/m²), and water in afterwards.

LAWNS

Establishment

3 months prior to establishment,

apply lime, dolomite or gypsum (if required)

and thoroughly incorporate it into the soil, e.g. when the ground is first worked up.

3 weeks prior to planting or laying down turf,

apply Incitec Pivot Q5 at 500 - 700 kg/ha (5 - 7 kg/100 m²),

or Incitec Pivot CK 55 at 250 kg/ha (2.5 kg/100 m²).

Incorporate into the top 5 - 10 cm of soil.

Established Lawns

For summer growing species such as couch grass apply Nitrophoska Blue Special or Incitec Pivot CK 88 at 300 kg/ha (3 kg/100 m²) per application on three occasions each year (in September, December and March).

Fertilizer is best applied prior to and on the same day as watering, so that the fertilizer is washed off the leaves and into the soil. If the fertilizer remains on the leaves, it may dissolve in dew the following night, and burn the leaves.

Light rain or showers will have the same effect as dew, heavy rain the same effect as watering.

If fertilizer can be applied when rain is imminent, this may avoid the need to water the fertilizer in. 10 - 15 mm of rain should be adequate.

TREES AND SHRUBS

The surface area around trees and shrubs can be fertilised in the same way as established lawns. Spread the fertiliser uniformly on the soil, do not concentrate it in a small area. Avoid application around sensitive native plants.



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FRUIT TREES

Apply Nitrophoska Blue Special or Incitec Pivot CK 88 three times per year, in August, November and March. Spread uniformly around the tree, applying fertilizer no closer than 20 cm to the trunk out to a point 20 cm beyond the edge of the canopy.

- For small trees (less than 2 metres in diameter), apply 150 g/tree/application.
- For medium size trees (2 – 4 metres in diameter), apply 500 g/tree/application.
- For large trees (5 metres or more in diameter), apply 1.5 kg/tree/application.

Do not concentrate the fertilizer on a small area, as root burn can occur, particularly in those trees with shallow root systems.

PETS AND WILDLIFE

While the risk is slight, the ingestion of freshly-applied fertilizer may affect the health of grazing animals and wildlife, and in isolated incidents result in deaths. If practical, it is best to remove animals from areas being fertilized, and not to readmit them until after rain is received or irrigation applied, and regrowth occurs. This minimises the risk of direct ingestion of fertilizer, and nitrate poisoning from young regrowth.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION:

This Fact Sheet contains brief Use Directions only, which by necessity are of a general nature. Fertilizer programs may need to be varied depending on the plants being grown, the soil's fertility, and cultural practices.

More detailed advice on fertilizing lawns is presented in the Agritopic on "Fertilizing Parks, Lawns and Home Gardens (Qld and Northern NSW)".

Incitec Pivot Limited 70 Southbank Bvd, Melbourne 3006
ABN 42 004 080 264 Freecall 1800 333 197 www.incitecpivot.com.au



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