

some organics as well, such as steer manure, which can have high salt concentrations, and fresh manures, which can have a high urea content, which can burn plants.

Myth: The numbers on the fertilizer bag are important.

Fact. All fertilizers will have a series of three numbers displayed prominently on the label. These numbers represent the percentage by weight of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), and are referred to as the guaranteed analysis. For instance, a 10-2-5 fertilizer will

have 10% N, 2% P and 5% K. A 46-0-0 fertilizer will have 46% N, 0% P and 0% K. Though all three elements are important in maintaining a healthy plant or stand of grass, N will cause the greatest response.

Because of this, most fertilizer recommendations for lawns are listed as lb. per 1000 square feet. Nitrogen fertilizers come in two basic forms: quick release (soluble) nitrogen, and slow release (insoluble) nitrogen. Quick-release nitrogen normally causes a response in a week or less, whereas slow-release nitrogen will

cause a response in 3 to 10 weeks, or more. Quick-release nitrogen is inexpensive, and may burn leaf blades, if applied improperly. ⬆



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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

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