

Nitrogen Timings for Spring Crops



Spring Wheat

For most crops drilled by March the application should be split into two key timings but apply all the nitrogen to the seedbed of late drilled crops except on very light soils. Third timing is for grain quality where important.

- 1) Seedbed or as soon as the tramlines are visible
Up to 50% of the total dose where it is greater than 70kg/ha
- 2) Early stem extension (GS30-31)
All remaining balance of nitrogen for yield production.
- 3) Watery - milky ripe stage (late June)
To boost grain protein for milling (if required) apply 35lt/ha Crest Pro-N alone or in a fungicide/insecticide tankmix.

For autumn sown spring wheat the timings are similar to that of winter wheat.

Feed Spring Barley

For most crops drilled by March, the application should be split into two timings, but apply all the nitrogen to the seedbed of late drilled crops except on very light soils.

- 1) Seedbed or as soon as the tramlines are visible
Up to 50% of the total dose where it is greater than 70kg/ha
- 2) Early stem extension (GS30-31)
Apply all remaining balance of nitrogen for yield production.

Malting Spring Barley

Apply all nitrogen by end of tillering but before April either to the seedbed or early post emergence. If the total dose is greater than 120kg/ha you may want to split the application.

Spring Oilseed Rape & Spring Linseed

Apply all nitrogen to the seedbed except on light soils where the total rate is greater than 80kg/ha. In those circumstances apply 50kg/ha to the seedbed and the balance by early May.

Sugar Beet

Two important timings for nitrogen application

- 1) 30-40kg/ha immediately after drilling
- 2) Balance of total nitrogen application when all seedlings have emerged

Potatoes

Apply all the nitrogen recommended to the seedbed except where for management reasons top dressing is planned then apply 60%-70% to the seedbed and the remainder shortly after emergence.

Application Notes:

Intended total nitrogen rates should be planned and agreed with a FACTS qualified adviser based on Soil Nitrogen Supply Index and taking account of previous field experience, yield potential, crop canopy and other variables.

Take account for nitrogen availability in any organic manure that has been applied.

Urea vs AN – if using urea as the primary source of nitrogen fertiliser, apply early in application windows and apply bigger proportions of the total nitrogen dose earlier in the programme. This should also be a management consideration with either form of nitrogen fertiliser if drought conditions are expected.

Always follow good agricultural practice guidelines with respect to nitrogen applications and environmental protection.

Sulphur – if not applied as Brimstone 90 elemental sulphur in the seedbed apply sulphur in N:S fertilisers either early in the season if to be applied in one dose or little and often with a lower percentage sulphur product.

Conversion table for products containing 34.5% nitrogen

Product Rate		Nitrogen Rate	
Kg/ha	cwt/ac	Kg/ha	Units/ac
125	1	43	34.5
187.5	1.5	65	52
250	2	86	69
312.5	2.5	108	86
375	3	129	104
437.5	3.5	151	121
500	4	173	138
562.5	4.5	194	155
625	5	216	173
687.5	5.5	237	190
750	6	259	207