

Recommendations

Lime

If testing finds that soil pH is too low for the crop(s) indicated, a **lime recommendation** will be given in units of either ton/acre or lb/1000 sq ft. For best results, mix the lime into the top 6 to 8 inches of soil several months before planting. For no-till or established plantings where this is not possible, apply no more than 1 to 1.5 ton/acre (50 lb/1000 sq ft) at one time, even if the report recommends more. You can apply the rest in similar increments every six months until the full rate is applied. If MG is recommended and lime is needed, use dolomitic lime.

Fertilizer

Recommendations **for field crops or other large areas** are listed separately for each nutrient to be added (in units of lb/acre unless otherwise specified). Recommendations for N (and sometimes for B) are based on research/field studies for the crop being grown, not on soil test results. K-I and P-I values are based on test results and should be > 50. If they are not, follow the fertilizer recommendations given. If Mg is needed and no lime is recommended, 0-0-22 (11.5% Mg) is an excellent source; 175 to 250 lb per acre alone or in a fertilizer blend will usually satisfy crop needs, SS-I levels appear only on reports for greenhouse soil or problem samples.

Farmers and other commercial producers should pay special attention to **micronutrient levels**. If \$, pH\$, \$pH, C or Z notations appear on the soil report, refer to [\\$Note: Secondary Nutrients and Micronutrients](#). In general, homeowners do not need to be concerned about micronutrients. Various crop notes also address lime fertilizer needs; visit ncagr.gov/agronomi/pubs.htm.

Recommendations **for small areas, such as home lawns/gardens**, are listed in units of lb/1000 sq ft. If you cannot find the exact fertilizer grade recommended on the report, visit www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/obpart4.htm#fs to find information that may help you choose a comparable alternate. For more information, read [A Homeowner's Guide to Fertilizer](#).

Test Results

The first seven values [soil class, HM%, W/V, CEC, BS%, Ac and pH] describe the soil and its degree of acidity. The remaining 16 [P-I, K-I, Ca%, Mg%, Mn-I, Mn-AI1, Mn-AI2, Zn-I, Zn-AI, Cu-I, S-I, SS-I, Na, ESP, SS-I, NO₃-N (not routinely available)] indicate levels of plant nutrients or other fertility measurement. Visit www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrst.htm for more information.

Report Abbreviations

Ac	exchangeable acidity
B	boron
BS%	% CEC occupied by basic cations
Ca%	% CEC occupied by calcium
CEC	cation exchange capacity
Cu-I	copper index
ESP	exchangeable sodium percent
HM%	percent humic matter
K-I	potassium index
K₂O	potash
Mg%	% CEC occupied by magnesium
MIN	mineral soil class
Mn	manganese
Mn-AI1	Mn-availability index for crop 1
Mn-AI2	Mn-availability index for crop 2
Mn-I	manganese index
M-O	mineral-organic soil class
N	nitrogen
Na	sodium
NO₃-N	nitrate nitrogen
ORG	organic soil class
pH	current soil pH
P-I	phosphorus index
P₂O₅	phosphate
S-I	sulfur index
SS-I	soluble salt index
W/V	weight per volume
Zn-AI	zinc availability index
Zn-I	zinc index