

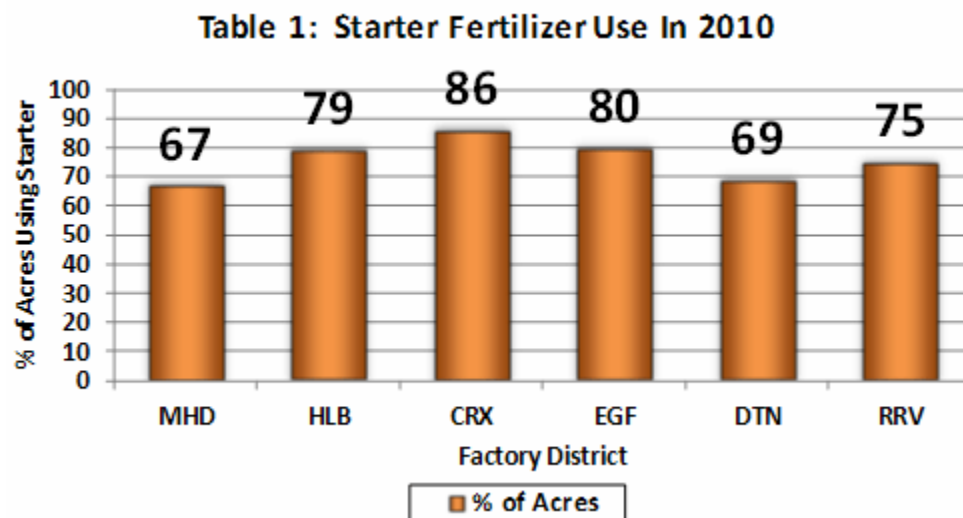


551 – Starter Fertilizer Provides “Bang for your Bucks”

April 11, 2011

Starter fertilizer has provided great benefit for those using it for nearly 20 years. About 75% of all growers used it in 2010. However increased usage has slowed in recent years. Even in 2010 with an early planting date starter fertilizer increased revenue by nearly \$30/acre and P fertilizer cost was reduced by about \$27 per acre. Starter fertilizer use may be especially beneficial when using conventional varieties to get the crop off to a fast start to compete better with weeds.

Starter Fertilizer Use by Factory District

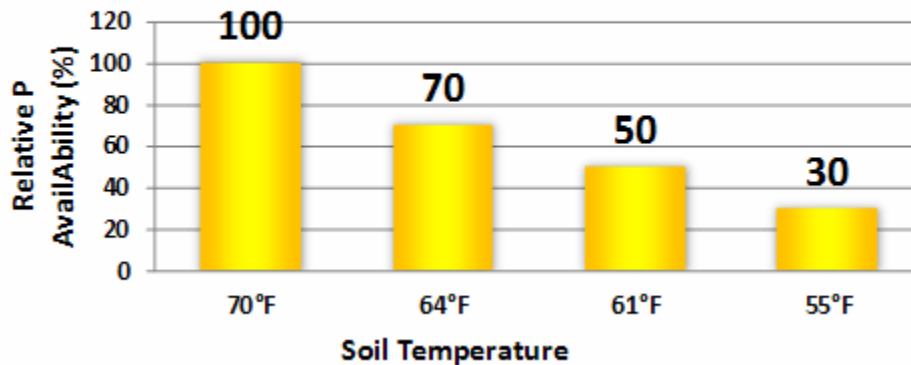


Benefits of In-furrow Starter Use:

- Increased early season vigor
- Improved crop stress tolerance

- RSA usually increased
- P fertilizer cost saving of \$15-\$35/acre
- Best efficiency of applied P fertilizer use
- Best P utilization in cold soils - see Table 2.

Table 2: Effects of Soil Temperature on the Relative Availability of Phosphorus*



* Soil Temperature Effects P Use: Using starter fertilizer for corn grain, sorghum, soybeans - Hergert and Wortmann - Extension Soils Specialists, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

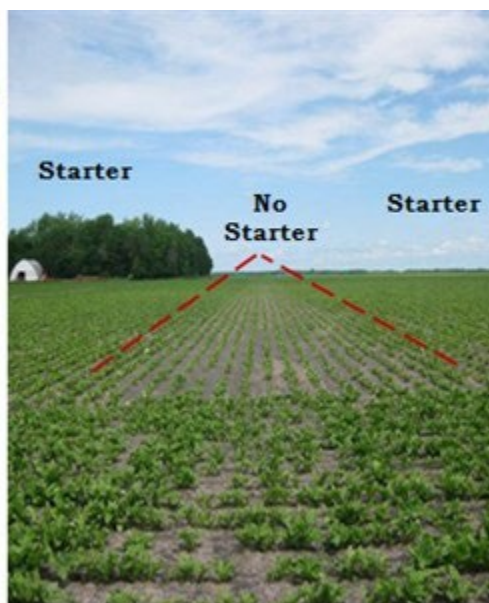
Starter Use Considerations:

- Know the P value of your product
- Compare starters on cost per pound of nutrient
- The lower your soil test the greater the value of starter P
- For soils testing low, or very low for P consider a broadcast application of P

Table 3: Know How Much P is in Your Starter

Product * Analysis	Rate (GPA)	Amount of P Supplied (Lbs.)
0-10-0	1	1.2
	2	2.4
	3	3.6
0-20-0	1	2.4
	2	4.8
	3	7.2
0-30-0	1	3.6
	2	7.2
	3	10.8
10-34-0	1	4.0
	2	8.0
	3	12.0

* Assume 12 lbs./gallon for products



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