

PureGrade Liquid Plant Food

Starter Fertilizer for Narrow-Row Corn

More growers are trying narrow-row corn. Advantages include yield increases and earlier ground shading for improved weed control and less moisture evaporation. A more equal distance seed spacing is also seen as an advantage. Questions arise on how to handle starter fertilizer applications on a crowded planter and drill toolbars.

Nutra-Flo PureGrade line of low salt, non-corrosive fertilizers are manufactured specifically for safe seed slot placement on corn and many other crops. This eliminates the need for expensive additional toolbars and starter fertilizer coulters. PureGrade fertilizers can easily be applied through available tube holders and micro-tubes directly into the seed slot on either planters or drills.

Typically, narrow row corn is grown in 15, 20 and 22-inch row spacing. In the past, growers have used fertilizer coulters to place starter fertilizer in a band 2-3 inches away from the seed furrows. This becomes more difficult and expensive as more and more row units are attached to the planter toolbar. Additionally, growers and equipment manufacturers complain that conventional agricultural starter fertilizers cause excessive corrosion to expensive equipment.

Nutra-Flo's GoldStart fertilizers solve the problems of application to narrow row corn. PureGrade fertilizers have a low salt index so they can be safely applied in the seed furrow without worry of germination or seedling damage. This eliminates the need for fertilizer openers for starter fertilizer placement. And, many growers appreciate the non-corrosive characteristics of PureGrade fertilizers. This saves money by not having to make labor-intensive replacement of expensive planter parts due to fertilizer corrosion.

PureGrade, when placed into the seed furrow, has been proven in test after test that it can exceed the results obtained from conventional fertilizers and placements. When placed into the seed furrow the available 100% soluble nutrients are ready for uptake into the young root system for immediate use by the plant.

Questions arise on how much starter fertilizer to apply in narrow row corn. The purpose for narrow row corn is to produce higher yields. Higher yields demand higher fertilizer rates and more intensive fertility management. Usually, growers will use the same plant populations as they did in 30-inch rows while others may slightly increase the seeding rate. The goal is to get the yield increases from more equal distant plant spacing. Refer to Table 1 for application ranges according to row spacing.



We suggest increasing the rate of application of starter fertilizer as the rows are narrowed. If a typical PureGrade rate of application in 30-inch row corn is 5 gallon/acre of 6-24-6 or 9-18-9, for example, then use 6 gal/a in 20-inch row corn and 7 gallon/acre in 15-inch rows as a general recommendation.

Let Nutra-Flo show you how its PureGrade fertilizers can benefit you and your growers and ease the transition into narrow row corn.

TABLE 1. PureGrade™* Application Rate Table (Corn)

Analysis	30-inch rows		20 & 22-inch rows		15-inch rows	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
3-18-18	3	6	4.5	9	6	12
5-15-15	3	6	4.5	9	6	12
6-24-6	3	6	4.5	9	6	12
6-30-10	3	6	4.5	9	6	12
9-18-9	3	5	4.5	8	6	10

Minimum rates are determined by the practical limitations of application equipment. Lower rates are possible, but restrictors will be needed to insure a steady flow of fertilizer into the seed furrow. Maximum rates are those judged to be safe in non-sandy soils based on the relative salt indexes of the products. Application recommendations should be determined according to soil test results, yield goals and soil properties such as organic matter and cation exchange capacity.

*PureGrade includes both the GoldStart and Diamond fertilizers.