



BLENDS

Fertiliser blends provide a convenient solution to farmers by allowing the application of multiple nutrients in a single formulation.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers offer our customers:

- Over 500 “Range Blends” to meet varying crop, soil and climatic conditions.
- “Custom Blends” available on firm order to meet individual farmer needs.

WHY USE FERTILISER BLENDS?

A fertiliser blend is a mixture of two or more different dry fertiliser products that have been physically mixed. Blending different fertilisers allows suppliers to source a range of fertiliser products for use as blend ingredients and provide customers with a wide range of blended products of varying nutrient contents that can be optimised for specific applications and conditions. Australian agriculture is diverse, embracing tropical and temperate regions, irrigated and rain-grown crops, and a wide variety of crops, pastures, and soil types. Cultural practices and fertiliser application methods also vary. Consequently, a wide variety of fertilisers are required.

Without blends, farmers would have to use compound fertiliser products. These often require long production runs, and so only a limited range of products can be offered. Compound fertilisers are typically more expensive than blends. Incitec Pivot Fertilisers offers only one imported NPK compound fertiliser, and that is Granulock® Blue (formerly known as Nitrophoska® Special).

Blends provide convenience to farmers as multiple nutrients can be applied together. If blends were not available, farmers would need to spread their fertiliser products in several applications to apply the nutrients they require in fertiliser programs. Blends simplify the fertiliser application process for farmers.

Blends are more variable in their analyses than compounds and do show some variation around the stated analysis. They are, however, cost competitive, and allow a choice of products.

Incitec Pivot fertilisers has over 500 different blends in its product range to service farmer needs in South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Blends are available from strategically placed Distribution Centres throughout eastern and southern Australia, from Cairns in North Queensland to Port Lincoln in South Australia, as well as several centres in Tasmania.

Custom blends are also available on request, tailored to individual farmer needs.

WHAT FERTILISERS ARE USED IN BLENDS?

The most used blend ingredients by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers are shown in Table 1. These fertiliser blend ingredients supply the required nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S).

Other nutrients, such as boron (B), copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn), can also be added where required. Molybdenum (Mo) can be incorporated into pasture topdressing fertilisers, e.g., SuPerfect® Potash Blends.

Table 1: Most used blend ingredients by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers.

Product	Common Name	N	P	K	S
Urea		+			
Gran-am®	Ammonium Sulphate Sulphate of Ammonia	+			+
DAP	Diammonium phosphate	+	+		
MAP	Monoammonium phosphate	+	+		
SuPerfect®	Single Superphosphate (SSP)		+		+
Muriate of Potash	Potassium chloride (MOP)			+	
Sulphate of Potash	Potassium sulphate (SOP)			+	+

FERTILISER COMPATIBILITY

BUT not all ingredients are physically and chemically compatible with each other.

Segregation (or separation) during handling is minimised by choosing blend ingredients that are evenly sized and closely matched in their sizing with other blend ingredients. Fine powders and dusts such as molybdenum trioxide are not used for this reason.

Some ingredients are not chemically compatible and may react with each other; they may also rapidly absorb moisture from the air when mixed. For example, urea and ammonium nitrate fertilisers such as Cal-Am® are incompatible in dry blends as the resultant blend has a depressed Critical Relative Humidity and will react quickly and turn to a watery slush.

BLEND ADDITION RATES

There are minimum and maximum limits to the concentrations at which ingredients can be used in blends, for regulatory, safety and operational reasons.

Most Distribution Centres with blending capability use volumetric (screw) blenders, with large hoppers for the major ingredients, and small hoppers for the addition of trace elements. At low addition rates, the blending equipment (screw augers) will not operate properly, and blending is compromised. Maximum limits also apply to the addition of trace elements fed through the small hoppers. Contact your local IPF representative for more information.

SAFETY DIRECTIONS

Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for more detailed safety advice. Before use, read the Product Label and the SDS. Use safe work practices and avoid contact with the eyes and skin. Avoid ingestion and inhaling dust. Protective clothing, eyewear and dust masks should always be used



when dealing with this product. Observe good personal hygiene, including washing hands after use. Avoid loss of fertiliser to waterways.

WARNING

This document contains information of a general nature. Before using fertiliser seek independent agronomic advice. Fertiliser programs may need to be varied depending on the plants being grown, climatic and soil conditions, application methods, irrigation, agricultural and livestock management practices, the soil's fertility, and cultural practices. ('Unforeseen Elements')

Fertiliser may burn and/or damage crop roots or foliage. Foliar burn to the leaves, fruit or other plant parts is most likely to occur when fertilisers are foliar applied at high concentrations and/or on a regular basis, different products are mixed and sprayed together at cumulatively high rates, the water is of poor quality, or the spray is applied under hot dry conditions, e.g. in the heat of the day.

Fertiliser and supplements may affect animal health. Seek independent advice before using any supplements in livestock rations.

DISCLAIMER

As Unforeseen Elements are beyond the control of Incitec Pivot Limited, in no event Incitec Pivot Limited and its related bodies corporate be liable or accept any responsibility whatsoever for any direct, indirect, punitive, incidental, special or consequential damages (including but not limited to loss of revenue, crops and livestock), in respect of the illness, injury or death of a person, damage to property (including of a third party), or any other loss whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use or misuse of this fertiliser, or its transport, storage, handling or application. Where Incitec Pivot Limited and its related bodies corporate's liability cannot be lawfully excused, it and its related bodies corporate's liability shall be limited to the replacement of, or cost of the fertiliser supplied. The buyer accepts and uses this product subject to these conditions.

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