



# **FERTILISING PARKS, LAWNS & HOME GARDENS (NEW SOUTH WALES)**

This Fact Sheet contains basic information on fertilising lawns and home gardens. It should be read in conjunction with the Fact Sheet on Fertilisers for Recreational Areas. A more detailed Agritopic is also available on this topic.

## **FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES**

### **Soil amelioration**

If lime, dolomite, or gypsum is required, it should be applied when the ground is worked up for the first time and be thoroughly incorporated or worked into the soil. Ideally this should be done about three months before planting.

### **Basal fertiliser**

Prior to planting, apply a complete NPK fertiliser such as Incitec Pivot Complete Mix 1 at 5 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup> (50 g/m<sup>2</sup>), or Incitec Pivot Grower 11 at 3.5 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup> (35 g/m<sup>2</sup>), and incorporate thoroughly into the top 10 to 20 cm of soil. This can be done before on the same day as planting. Mixing the fertiliser into the soil minimises the risk of fertiliser burn, which could occur if the roots of seedlings were to come into direct contact with high concentrations of fertiliser.

### **After planting**

About 3 to 4 weeks after planting, apply Incitec Pivot Granular Urea at 1 kg/100m<sup>2</sup> (10 g/m<sup>2</sup>). Water in after application.

## **LAWNS**

### **Establishing a new lawn**

#### **Soil Amelioration**

If lime, dolomite, or gypsum is required, apply it when the ground is worked up for the first time, and thoroughly incorporate into the soil. Ideally this should be done about three months before planting.

#### **Planting**

In the days or last couple of weeks before planting or laying down turf, apply a complete NPK fertiliser such as Incitec Pivot Complete Mix 1 at 350 – 450 kg/ha (3.5 – 4.5 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup>) or Incitec Pivot Grower 11 at 250 - 300 kg/ha (2.5 – 3 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup>). Incorporate into the top 5 to 10 cm of soil.

## Established lawns

After establishment, a fertiliser with a higher nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) and lower phosphorus (P) content can be used.

For summer active lawn grasses such as Sir Walter, Buffalo, and Couch, which grow faster during the warmer months of the year, apply either:

- Incitec Pivot No 17 lawn Food (S) at 400 – 500 kg/ha (4 – 5 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup>) per application; or
- Incitec Pivot Multigro or Granulock® Blue at 300 - 400 kg/ha (3 – 4 kg/100 m<sup>2</sup>) per application.

The fertiliser can be applied at this rate three or four times a year, e.g. in September, December, and March, with the interval between applications being extended during the winter months when growth is slowed.

The higher and more frequent rates are required where the lawn is watered throughout the year, and where grass clippings are collected and removed, and nutrients that would otherwise be recycled are lost.

It is best to water the fertiliser into the soil. Where possible, this should be done soon after fertilising and on the day of application. Fertiliser granules and dust that lodge on plant leaves may dissolve in overnight dew and burn the foliage.

Applying fertiliser when rain is forecast may avoid the need to water the fertiliser in, provided enough rain falls to wash the fertiliser from the foliage into the soil. Ten millimetres of rain in the one fall should be adequate for this to occur. Light rain or showers will have the same effect as dew, enough to dissolve the fertiliser but not enough to wash it off the leaves and into the soil.

The risk of leaf burn is increased if fertiliser is applied to wet grass, causing the fertiliser to stick to rather than fall through the foliage, and no further rain is received.

## TREES AND SHRUBS

The surface area around trees and shrubs can be fertilised in the same way as established lawns, using the same fertiliser at the same rates. Spread the fertiliser uniformly on the soil. Do not concentrate it in a small area. Avoid application around sensitive native plants.

## FRUIT TREES

Apply Incitec Pivot Multigro or Granulock® Blue three times per year, in August, November and March. Spread uniformly around the tree, applying the fertiliser no closer than 20 cm to the trunk out to a point 20 cm beyond the edge of the canopy.

- For small trees (less than 2 metres in diameter) apply 150 g/tree/application.
- For medium size trees (2 to 4 metres in diameter) apply 500 g/tree/application.
- For large trees (5 metres or more in diameter) apply 1.5 kg/tree/application.

Do not concentrate the fertiliser on a small area, as root burn can occur, particularly in those trees with shallow root systems.

## PETS AND WILDLIFE

While the risk is slight, the ingestion of freshly applied fertiliser may temporally affect the health of grazing animals and wildlife, and in isolated incidents result in death. If practical, it is best to remove animals from areas being fertilised, and not to readmit them until after rain is received or irrigation applied, and regrowth occurs. This minimises the risk of direct ingestion of fertiliser, and nitrate poisoning of grazing animals from young regrowth.

## FURTHER READING

This Fact Sheet contains basic information on fertilising lawns and home gardens. It should be read in conjunction with the Fact Sheet on Fertilisers for Recreational Areas. A more detailed Agritopic is also available on this topic.

## 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 Pty Ltd, in no event Incitec Pivot Pty Ltd 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 Pty Ltd 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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