

Safe Planting Rates of Fertiliser for Narrow Rows

Poor establishment of seed can occur when fertiliser is applied in direct contact with the seed at planting due to osmotic burn of high Nitrogen content fertilisers.

Row width is the critical factor. The wider the row spacing the greater the fertiliser concentration is along the row. This occurs as there are less row metres per hectare that the fertiliser is applied to increasing concentrations within the row.

Note: These rates apply when fertiliser is applied in direct contact with seed for cereal crops.

When fertiliser is spilt away from the seed there is no limitation on rates applied.

Row Spacing		Starter Products				
cm	inches	Rate N kg / ha	Urea	MAP / ZincStar	DAP	SOA
17.5	7	25	55	225	125	125
22.5	9	19	41	173	105	95
25	10	18	40	160	90	90
30	12	14	30	125	78	70
35	14	12	26	110	66	60
70	28	6	13	55	33	30

These rates apply when good soil moisture is present at planting.

Variables:

1. Low soil moisture levels rates should be reduced
2. Very sandy soils rates should be reduced by 50%
3. High clay based soils rates can be increased by 30%
4. Blends that contain Potassium have higher osmotic burn potential and rates should reduced by 50%.
5. When air seeders are used higher rates may be possible as air application spreads the fertiliser wider in the row due to air pressure over conventional planters
6. Cotton and some legume crops are more sensitive and rates should be based on local advice