

FERTILIZER SPREADER CALIBRATION

“Applying The Right Amount with a Rotary Broadcast Spreader”

Method #1

1. Fill spreader with a weighed amount of fertilizer.
2. Layout calibration area in length. 100', 50', 200', etc.
3. Apply the fertilizer the length of the run.
4. Measure the width of the spread.
5. Weigh the remaining fertilizer in the spreader and subtract this amount from the amount you started with.

Now you have all the variables for calculation. Length, width, and amount of fertilizer used.

Calculation

Length x width = sq.ft. of area

Example: 7' spread x 100' run = 700 sq.ft. of area

If you applied 5 lbs. of fertilizer in this area, then you applied 5#/700 sq.ft.

You can then use a ratio to find the rate/1000 sq.ft. or rate/acre.

Example:

You spread 5#/700 sq.ft.

$$\frac{5\#}{700'} \therefore \frac{X}{1000'} \quad \text{cross multiply the ratio} \quad 700 \times X = 5 \times 1000 \quad \text{or} \quad 700X = 5000$$

$$\text{then: } X = \frac{5000}{700} \quad \text{and } X = 7.14$$

Thus: you applied a little more than 7 lbs. of fertilizer per 1000 sq.ft.
If you were using Turf Supreme then the spreader setting would need to be closed to apply the recommended rate of 6.25#/1000.

Method #2

1. Fill spreader with fertilizer.
2. Run spreader over a pre-marked area.
 - a. Area must be smaller than the spread pattern.
 - b. Use a small tarp to collect the applied fertilizer.
3. Collect and weight the fertilizer that was applied to the tarp.
4. The formula for the pounds of fertilizer that was applied is:

$$\text{Pounds per 1000 sq.ft.} = \frac{\text{Amount collected} \times 1000}{\text{Size of measured area}}$$