

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. P-210

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Perennial Summer Pasture Grasses

Bahia, Dallisgrass, Common and Hybrid Bermudas

1. For optimal forage growth, apply lime when soil pH falls below 6.0 for Dallisgrass and Bermudagrass, or below 5.5 for Bahiagrass. If overseeding with ryegrass or clovers, maintain a pH of 6.0 or higher. When magnesium levels are medium or low, use dolomitic lime to supply both calcium and magnesium. If lime isn't needed but magnesium is still low, Sul-Po-Mag (K-Mag) can be applied to correct the deficiency and support healthy plant growth.

Establishing Perennial Summer Grasses

2. Recommended rates of phosphorus and potassium and 20-40 pounds of nitrogen per acre should be applied and incorporated into the soil before seeding or sprigging.
3. Soils that test low and medium in sulfur, apply 20 pounds of sulfur per acre.
4. After seedlings emerge or sprigs start to grow, apply 40-60 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Maintaining Perennial Summer Grasses for Grazing

5. All the recommended rates of phosphorus and sulfur, and 40-60 pounds on nitrogen per acre should be applied in the spring soon after growth starts.
6. An additional 100-200 pounds of nitrogen per acre preferentially split into two applications (when the grass growth begins and in June). For fall grazing, 30-40 pounds of nitrogen per acre may be needed in August or early September.

Bahia or Hybrid Bermudagrass for Hay

7. One-third to one-half of the recommended phosphorus and potassium and 60-80 pounds of nitrogen per acre should be applied as soon as growth starts in the spring.
8. Apply 60-80 pounds of nitrogen per acre after each cutting of hay (except the last) and one-third of the recommended phosphorus and potassium after the 1st and 2nd cuttings or one-half after the 2nd cutting.
9. Soils that test low and medium in sulfur, apply 6-12 pounds of sulfur per acre per harvest as sulfate may increase yields. It can be applied by using ammonium sulfate as part of the nitrogen application program or with a blend containing sulfur in the sulfate form.
10. Contact your Extension agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.