

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. V-420

Prepared by Extension Horticulturist James Boudreaux and modified by Research Coordinator Christine Coker

Root Crops (turnips, beets, carrots, radishes, rutabagas, kohlrabi)

1. Apply 20-50 pounds of nitrogen per acre before planting and a sidedressing of 20-40 pounds of nitrogen per acre 2-4 weeks after planting.
2. Increase recommended fertilizer rates 25% for double drill crops. Each drill should have its own band of fertilizer.
3. An additional sidedressing of 20-30 pounds of nitrogen 2-3 weeks after the first sidedressing may be beneficial in obtaining high yields on carrots, rutabagas, and turnips.
4. Beets, turnips, and rutabagas have a high boron requirement. Boron deficiency is common on soils with a pH below 5.2 and on recently limed soils.

Apply 10-25 pounds of borax per acre or 5-12 pounds of Solubor per acre with preplant fertilizer. Foliar applications of borax (2-5 lbs./100 gals.) or Solubor (1-1 ½ lbs./100 gals.) can also be used. Always apply foliar treatments in the early morning hours to the underside of young rapidly growing plants for best results. Generally 2 or 3 applications of foliar boron 7-10 days apart are sufficient to avoid boron deficiency.

5. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.