

Topgrass 26N

Advice For Its Safe Handling And Use



Handling

Refer to the accompanying Health & Safety Datasheet.

On-Farm Storage

If the product is to be stored for any length of time it should be protected from rain, either in a well-ventilated store or by covering with a tarpaulin. The bags are not waterproof and with prolonged exposure to rain, leaching of product will occur.

For indoor storage usual fertiliser recommendations apply.

Application

The physical properties of the product vary considerably from a fine powder to granules of widely varying sizes. For this reason it is impossible to apply it using a conventional prill/granular fertiliser spreader, and we advise the use of a Bredal/Ag-Gator lime spreader equipped with in-hopper grids (*see footnote*).

Experience has shown that the best way to load the spreader straight from the bags is to pick them up by the loops using a teleporter, and then press down on the bag and roll it backwards and forwards several times, which in most instances will loosen the product sufficiently for it to leave the bag when the tie is undone.

If grids of the recommended dimensions are used the bulk of the product will then pass through them, leaving larger lumps and the occasional hard pieces that occur to be scraped through by hand, using a shovel.

Excessive crushing of the product should be avoided as the granules easily become reduced to dust, increasing crop scorch.

Bout Width Recommendations/Spreading Techniques

Trials with calibration trays and long experience have proven that because of the uneven particle size, the ideal bout width is 9 metres. With our Ag-Gator 2004 we spread the area in question at 18 metres and then split it back between the bouts. Some customers maintain that it can be spread at 12 metres, but it is important not to be deceived by the considerable travel of the larger particles – **much of the application is in the fine product, which does not spread far at all.**

Customers/contractors using Big A/Ag-Gator type spreaders may find it advantageous to run the conveyor at half speed enabling a greater tail-gate opening, thus avoiding blockages which can disrupt the spread pattern. With the grids detailed below, a minimum tail-gate opening of 65mm means that blockages are unlikely.

Application Rates

We regularly apply up to 150 units N at one application without significant loss of N. We recommend that requirements of 250-300 units be done in two applications.

Usage/Conditions to Avoid

We advise that the product is really only suitable for use on grassland because of the uncertain spread pattern, and possible crop scorch. In any case it is impossible to apply it from 18 metre tramlines.

Avoid applying to tender (e.g. newly seeded leys), stressed or advanced crops – excessive scorch may occur, especially in the wheelings.

Avoid applying immediately after rolling – mechanical damage may result in severe scorch.

Avoid applying when the foliage is wet. Because of the fines content severe scorch may occur.

Avoid applying on windy days – again because of the fines content.

We recommend that second applications on grassland be done immediately after grazing or on hay or silage bottoms, minimising scorch.

We advise that after application stock should not be turned out until the product has been washed off the leaf by subsequent rainfall.

Because of the corrosive nature of the product all equipment should be thoroughly washed down after use, and a rust inhibitor applied. Failure to do this will result in corrosion to mild steel and alloy components. Stainless steel is not affected to any great degree.

Disposal of Bags and Pallets

Since the bags are no longer returnable they should be disposed of through a reputable waste disposal contractor. **On no account should bags be burned on farm.** If problems are experienced please contact us and we will arrange for their disposal at cost.

In- Hopper Grids

Experience has shown that the grids often found in Big A/ Ag-Gator spreaders are not suitable for this product as it is too moist/lumpy to pass through them to any degree.

The ideal grid size consists of 10mm rods welded at 75mm centres, giving an aperture of 65mm x 65mm. At this size the contents of all but the worst bags will pass through, leaving just the lumps and hard pieces to be worked through manually.



Further Advice

Do not hesitate to contact John Fearnley – details below.