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Slow Release Nitrogen What We Should Know!

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Slow Release Nitrogen is typically measured in per cent of a given liquid nitrogen that is actually SRN. The highest known SRN materials that are used in the turf industry are as high as 60% SRN. This simply means that 60% of the N in the liquid is SRN. Be aware that the other 40% is not slow release but normal liquid nitrogen and mostly in the form of liquid urea.

In agriculture, most SRN materials (ex: Coron or Trisert) are in the range of 25% slow release to be more economical (and more profitable).

A product with an analysis of 25-0-0 and promoted to be 25% SRN, is only 6.25% SRN. Simply stated, only 1/4 of that nitrogen content is SRN, not the entire nitrogen content.

A major concern should be 10-0-10: 25% of the ten per cent nitrogen is SRN, or 2.5%. The SRN has no impact on the potassium or boron and no impact on the majority of the Nitrogen. This Slow Release 10-0-10 would be more accurately described as a 2.5-0-0 Slow Release and a 7.5-0-10 Normal Foliar that are tank mixed. How much different is this than the original 10-0-10 that we applied for many years. Think about it! Would you rather have a 7.5-0-10 with a little slow release (2.5%) OR a quick to absorb 10-0-10 that has been proven for years to actually work.

Product pH: The pH of a foliar is critical to end results and could effect pesticide performance. Many 'slow release' formulas have an extremely high pH which means the liquid is an alkaline buffer. The pH of the tank solution will take on the pH of the SRN Liquid, which is normally high... and... bad for pesticides!

At DeltAg, we developed all of our products for "quick absorption and translocation". The advantage is that the N, K and Boron are all readily absorbed, leaving less opportunity to salt out and burn the leaf. We have been able to make as many as five weekly applications of foliar urea 23% N at two gallons in a total three... with no foliar burn. Without **DeltAg**, the third consecutive week created so much foliar burn that applications had to be halted. Experience is the best teacher.

Years of research and tissue analysis in cotton have consistently shown that the most economical response to foliar N and K is from the fourth to the seventh week of bloom. Two to three applications during this stage of development on 7 to 10 day intervals will enhance yields. BUT, the slow release market would have us believe an application at first bloom is best. Why? All the research I have ever seen published indicates a peak fruiting foliar is the best. The SRN folks say it is due to the Slow Release and it takes a month for the plant to take it in. So they must be saying it stays on the leaf for a month. This would mean rain will not wash it off and the sun will not evaporate the materials or cause them to break down. It must be glue! Hello?

Don't let the competition get on your farms with fancy concepts and high priced formulas. 'Slow Release' has an extremely high pH and is just what it says, slow! To be safe is a good thing, but why not be safe and fast? As providers of products and information to the American farmer, we should be concerned about the livelihood of our clients. The reality is that SRN sounds great and heavy marketing has generated lots of interest in the biggest hoax of my thirty-one years in agriculture.

For more information or to receive DeltAg Product Briefs,
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