

Sulf-N® Ammonium Sulfate News

As farmers tune up their drills for wheat planting, it's a great time to consider the role of a pre-plant application of ammonium sulfate in improving wheat yields.

Wheat demands a lot of sulfur – an 80-bushel wheat crop needs 20 pounds of sulfur per acre, and a 100-bushel crop will utilize 25 pounds of sulfur per season. Maintaining a ratio in the plant of one pound of sulfur for approximately every 15 pounds of nitrogen is also vital. Otherwise, the crop can suffer from both sulfur deficiency and reduced nitrogen efficiency.

Research on pre-plant applications of ammonium sulfate shows significant benefits:



Wheat Tillers

More fall tillers

Research at North Carolina State University recorded 13% higher winter wheat yields as a result of better fall tillering following ammonium sulfate applications.

Greater yield potential

Those tillers are vital: 80 percent of yield comes from tillers that produce 30 kernels or more per spike, which are formed in late fall and early winter.

Better roots

Ammonium nitrogen – the form in ammonium sulfate – also improved root growth and reduced damage from take-all in research at Purdue University.

Blending ammonium sulfate with other nitrogen fertilizers contributes both nitrogen and sulfur in optimal forms for fall application:

Less nitrogen loss. Ammonium nitrogen resists loss from volatilization – roughly five to ten times less volatilization loss than urea according to research at the University of Arkansas.

Immediately-available sulfur. The sulfate form of sulfur is immediately available for root uptake. That's helpful as the crop gets established in the fall, and vital in early spring before soil temperatures warm up enough to allow the mineralization of organic matter – the main sulfur pool in soils.

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