What do the recommendations on the soil test report mean?







What do the recommendations on the soil test report mean?

Words Explained

Fertilizer: Something added to the soil to help the plants grow

Nutrients: Tiny particles in the soil that a crop needs as food

Soil sample: A bag of soil that represents the part of the field that you want tested Subsample: Soil collected from one point in your field

Soil test: The analysis of a soil sample to know the nutrient levels and the acidity of the soil



Soils are like human bodies; they need to be nourished. Nutrients are the ingredients of the soil's favorite food. Like with human diets, it is important that the ingredients are applied in the right amounts and proportions.



Crops require different nutrients. N, P and K are macro-nutrients and are taken up in relatively large quantities by the crop. Micro-nutrients like Zn and B are taken up in much smaller amounts, yet are crucial for the crop performance. EC and pH are environmental factors that determine the conditions for crop growth.





will ask you for a target yield to determine the fertilizer advice. Discuss with your fellow farmers, what is a reasonable yield level? As a guideline, don't go over doubling your current yield level.





Here it says what I have to apply

before planting,

at planting and

six weeks after

planting.

Yes, you should split the fertilizer application. The soil cannot adsorb all the nutrients at once. It is like your own consumption, you also split your meals over time.

Haha, indeed, I cannot eat for a year in one day!





organic matter also determines the water holding capacity of the soil. Soil organic matter contents can be increased by applying organic fertilizers like compost and manure.

Colophon

Want to know more? info@soilcaresfoundation.com

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This booklet is part of the Booklet Series of SoilCares Foundation. It explains what the recommendations of the soil test report mean. Through these training booklets SoilCares Foundation wants to show you how to take care of your soil – so the soil can take care of you.

Other SoilCares Foundation booklets:

- 1. Why should I test my soil?
- 2. How do I collect a good soil sample?
- 3. What do the recommendations of the soil test report mean?
- 4. How and why should I apply fertilizer?
- 5. What are the differences between mineral fertilizers?



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