

Simple Spreader Calibration





Step 1

- Find the N-P-K ratio on your bag of fertilizer. The N number (Nitrogen) is the percentage of actual nitrogen your bag contains per pound of total fertilizer.
- Take the N number, and divide 100 by that number (e.g. $100 \div 20$).
- The answer equals the correct number of pounds of your fertilizer product to apply per 1,000 square feet of your lawn (as long as you want 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of your property).

Step 2

- Is your spreader delivering that amount? You need to find this out by checking the calibration.
- Checking the calibration is simple. Weigh out 10 pounds of your fertilizer product on a bathroom scale using a light weight container such as a cardboard box.
- Measure out a 25 foot long strip in the center of a hard surface such as a driveway.

Step 3

- Set your fertilizer spreader at the recommended setting suggested on the product label.
- Place the ten pounds of fertilizer product that you measured out in the hopper of the spreader.
- Operate the spreader along the 25 foot length you measured out.

Step 4

- Measure the width in feet that the fertilizer was scattered by the spreader.
- Multiply the width you measured by the 25 foot length. This answer is the area in square feet that your spreading effort has covered.

Step 5

- Now weigh the fertilizer left in the hopper of the spreader using the bathroom scale.
- Subtract the amount you get from the original ten pounds.
- The answer is the amount your spreading effort has applied.

Step 6

- Divide the amount of fertilizer in pounds that you spread by the square footage your spreader has covered.
- Now divide the amount of fertilizer in pounds that you want to apply by 1,000 square feet.
- Both of these answers should be decimals.

Step 6 continued

- Compare the two answers. If the answer for your test area is larger than the answer for the amount you want to apply, you will need to adjust your spreader to apply less fertilizer. But if the answer for your test area is smaller, you may want to adjust your spreader to apply more fertilizer.

Please print out the accompanying **Simple Spreader Calibration Worksheet** and **Example Worksheet** so you can try this process for yourself!

Remember to always sweep up fertilizer after calibrating your spreader!