FR 32
May 1962

Oregon State University Fertilizer Recommendation for

Fine Fescue
(Northeastern Oregon)

Fertilizer experiments have been conducted in northeastern Oregon on fine fescue since 1958. The following recommendations are based on these experiments and on observations of farm fields.

Nitrogen

Seed yields of fine fescue have been significantly increased by nitrogen fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer is more effective on fields which have had straw and stubble removed. Fall-applied nitrogen produced more yields than spring-applied nitrogen.

Split applications of nitrogen with a portion applied in the fall and the balance applied in the spring is recommended only when 80 or more lbs. of actual nitrogen is applied annually. With a split application, most of the nitrogen should be fall applied. Vegetative growth and lodging is encouraged more by spring-applied fertilizer than fall application. Fall application should be made after fall growth is started but before the cold weather sets in. Applying fertilizer directly to the grass row is recommended in preference to broadcasting over the entire area.

1. On nonirrigated land, yields are increased by applications up to 60 lbs. of actual nitrogen (N)/A annually.

2. Well managed irrigated fields, need 80 to 100 lbs. of actual nitrogen (N)/A annually for maximum production.

Phosphorus and Potassium

Neither phosphorus nor potassium fertilizer alone has shown a material effect on seed yield or vegetative growth of fine fescue. Observations indicate that phosphorus and potassium show a response only when used with nitrogen on well managed irrigated fields or on the nonalluvial soils north and west of Summerville.

Other Plant Nutrients

Fertilizer mixtures containing copper, boron, zinc, manganese, iron, and sulfur have been applied to fields well fertilized with nitrogen. No increases or decreases in yield have been measured from the use of these nutrients.

Prepared by F. V. Pumphrey, Assistant Professor of Agronomy, Eastern Oregon Experiment Station, Union; D. P. Moore, Assistant Professor of Soils, Department of Soils and Howard E. Cushman, Extension Soil Conservation Specialist, Oregon State University.