

Precision Is The key

Our Leongatha branch has recently taken possession of a new tractor and linkage spreader! Equipped with the latest in technology the Kuhn spreader has the ability to deliver ultra precision through a 36 section controlled spread pattern and application rate, reducing costs of overlapping and product waste while creating the potential to maximise yields through increased efficiencies. The tractor and spreader is in addition to the two new MAN spreader trucks which have just joined the fleet in Leongatha. Speak to us today to book your next linkage job in as it is fast becoming busy!



Winter Nitrogen Ammonium Might Be Best

In a year where Autumn hasn't been as favourable as we might like it to be, when it comes to feeding stock we look to grass as our cheapest option. As we are in the middle of winter, still most with feed shortages, we are looking to the most effective way to apply Nitrogen to try and grow more dry matter per hectare. This year we haven't seen as much mineralisation of Nitrogen from organic matter as we would usually see due to rainfall coming once soil temperatures had already started dropping.

Urea is usually the go-to option as being the cheapest, most concentrated form of Nitrogen to apply. However, now that soil temperatures are down well below 10 degrees, we look to Ammonium Sulphate as an alternate Nitrogen option. Urea is made plant-available once it dissolves in water and hydrolyses by urease (a plant and microbe produced enzyme) to ammonium (NH_4^+). This happens quite quickly when conditions are favourable, but can take up to a week in these cooler conditions. If we apply Ammonium Sulphate, this is one less reaction in the soil that we are relying on to happen, before the plant can take up the Nitrogen. Plants can take up the Nitrogen as ammonium itself or as nitrate, which is formed within days to weeks of the ammonium being applied or formed from Urea. This again is based on environmental conditions.

By using a combination product of Urea and Ammonium Sulphate, we can find a balance of cost and benefit. This blended product can give the benefit of the sulphur to help better utilise Nitrogen and build plant proteins, but also manage cost due to the lower Nitrogen content in Ammonium Sulphate as a straight product. With rising import feed costs, Nitrogen is a simple, effective way of growing more feed per hectare, to get the most out of your grass.

Introducing James Ristrom

We are pleased to introduce James Ristrom, our new Sales Manager at Brown's Fertiliser.

James lives locally in Gippsland and is passionate about the agriculture industry.

He is hands-on in his approach, having grown up on a beef cattle property and completing his degree in Agriculture at Dookie College. Prior to joining the Brown's team, James was the Sales and Marketing Manager of Hico (Herd Improvement Cooperative Australia) and has great relationships within the Gippsland dairy industry and is familiar with many existing Brown's customers.

You may see James around as he will be spending time on farm with our Agronomists across all three depots.

You can contact James on 0407 301 380 or jristrom@brownsfert.com



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Reduce Losses Of Applied Nutrient In Winter

Leaching occurs when soil reaches near capacity to hold moisture and necessary nutrients leave the plant root zone. Not only is this costly to the grower but potentially harmful to the environment when not managed correctly. Nitrogen, Potassium and Sulphur are all soluble within the soil, due to this mobility the occurrence of leaching in all soil types is possible after heavy rainfall or excess irrigation.

Timing and level of application is critical to avoid excess nutrient in the soil being leached, with nutrient only applied at rates that don't exceed the pasture or crop demands in a single application. Nutrient should only be applied to species that are actively in their growing season. Plant species that are dormant through the winter (summer active) will not utilise a nutrient application and are therefore at risk of losing the nutrient from the root zone prior to the plants requirements.

Other limiting factors impacting Nitrogen take up and response are poor fertility, high weed pressure (this may include both broadleaf or grass species) and low dry matter residual, creating excess nutrient not being utilised and potential for loss.

To find out more about improving your fertiliser response rate over winter talk to your local Browns agronomist.

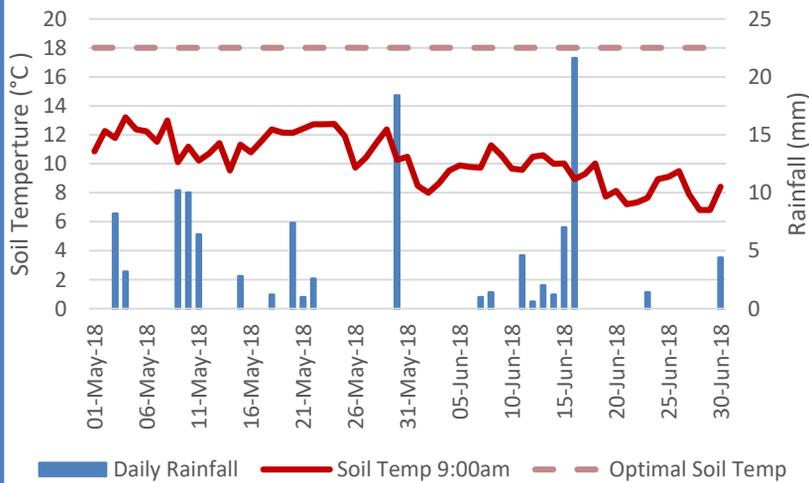
Soil Temperatures

Soil temperature reading is taken daily at 9:00am which is the coldest part of the day.

Koo Wee Rup had an average soil temperature for May of 11.5°C and for June it was 9.0°C.

Total rainfall at Koo Wee Rup for the month of May was 71.4 mm and Junes total was 45.2 mm.

Koo Wee Rup



Rotation Length – Is It Right?

With winter starting to set in and the soil temperature dropping, the growth rate of your pasture will have well and truly slowed. As this has been occurring your rotation length should have extended out enabling the building of a feed wedge ready for spring. During these times it can be difficult to know what the right rotation lengths at this time.

Rotation lengths can be determined by monitoring the leaf emergence rate – that is the amount of days it takes to regrow one leaf. The easiest way to do this is to enter a paddock that has been grazed and find a ryegrass tiller on which you may identify the remnant leaf of the last grazing. Not including the remnant leaf, count the amount of leaves that has grown on this tiller since its last grazing. If the paddock was last grazed 15 days ago and the tiller has one full leaf this equates to a leaf emergence rate of 15 days. Knowing that it is ideal to graze at two and a half to three leaf stage means your round length at this time should be out to roughly 45 days.

Continual monitoring of this will allow the optimisation of pasture quality and quantity, while also helping to promote Spring tillering.

Our Team of Agronomists



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