



Pasture nitrate testing

1. Collect a representative sample of the grass / bulb / stem you want to test (about 10 handfuls across the paddock). For crops with a significant amount of stem or bulb measure the nitrate level in each part separately. Make sure it is not contaminated with soil, dung, fertiliser etc.



2. Chop the sample into 0.5 - 1.0 cm lengths.



3. Fill the pottle with the chopped sample up to the appropriate mark.
Note: Do not pack grass tightly into container.



4. Add 2% acetic acid up to the acid mark (see hazard sheet for safety precautions and first aid).

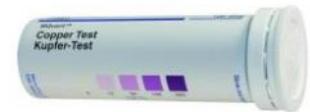


5. Check that the lid is on tightly and shake the pottle for 1 min. Now let it stand for 30 mins.



6. Dip a test stick in the mixture for 1 sec and shake off excess liquid. After 1 minute, compare the colour of the end pad on the stick with the NO₃⁻ chart* provided on the test strip container to obtain your reading.

*Ensure you compare the strip to the Nitrate (NO₃⁻) readings (0, 10, 25, 50... mg/L) on the chart provided.



7. Dispose of grass and acid mixture by tipping down the sink with plenty of running water.



Interpretation:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0-25 mg/L | Safe to feed |
| 50-100 mg/L | Feed Cautiously—Introduce the animals to the pasture when they are not hungry and allow only to graze for a short time (about 1 hour). |
| >100 mg/L | DANGER DO NOT FEED—retest in a day or two. |

If you have any doubt about the test results, send a fresh grass sample to the laboratory for testing.

July 2021

Please refer to our current price book for sample types, test turn-around times and pricing. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact your local Gribbles Veterinary laboratory or Territory Manager.



HAZARD SHEET - ACETIC ACID 2% V/V

NOT CLASSIFIED AS HAZARDOUS ACCORDING TO HASNO CRITERIA

Poison sched: None allocated Hazchem: None allocated UN no: None allocated
PKG Group: None allocated D.G Class: None allocated EPG: None allocated Sub/Tert
Risk: None allocated

Health Hazard

Summary Irritant - low toxicity. Use safe work practices to avoid eye or prolonged skin contact and vapour/mist inhalation. Prolonged contact with eyes may cause burns. May irritate the respiratory system if used in poorly ventilated areas.

Eye Irritant. Exposure may result in lacrimation, irritation, pain, redness, conjunctivitis and possible corneal burns with prolonged contact.

Inhalation Irritant. Over exposure at high vapour concentrations may result in mucous membrane irritation of the nose and throat, headache and dizziness.

Skin Irritant. Prolonged contact may result in irritation, itching and possible skin rash.

Ingestion Low toxicity. Ingestion may result in gastrointestinal irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

First Aid

Eye Hold eyelids apart and flush continuously with water. Continue until advised to stop by the Poisons Information Centre, a doctor, or for at least 15 minutes. Keep patient calm.

Inhalation If over exposure occurs leave exposure area immediately. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

Skin Remove contaminated clothing and gently flush affected areas with water. Seek medical attention if irritation develops. Launder clothing before reuse.

Ingestion For advise, contact National Poison Centre on 0800 764 766 or a doctor.

Precautions

Flammability Non flammable. May evolve toxic gases (acetic acid, hydrocarbons, carbon dioxides) when heated to decomposition.

Reactivity Incompatible with oxidising agents (e.g. hypochlorites, peroxides), alkalis (e.g. sodium hydroxide) and heat sources.

Ventilation Do not inhale vapours. Use in well ventilated areas. In poorly ventilated areas, mechanical extraction ventilation is recommended.

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