

TECHNICAL NOTES

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Organic Fertilizer Calculator

A tool for comparing the cost, nutrient value, and nitrogen availability of organic materials

This tool, prepared by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension, can be used to evaluate the use of organic inputs as fertilizer. A summary description of the tool from the author:

“Choosing an organic fertilizer can be difficult, as nutrient ratios, nitrogen availability, ease of use, and cost can vary widely among materials. This Excel-based calculator can help you save time and money and avoid excessive or deficient fertilizer applications. You can easily compare the cost, nutrient value, and nitrogen availability of organic materials and plan the most balanced and cost-effective fertilizer program for your farm. After you have determined your fertilizer requirements and collected the necessary information, it takes only a few minutes to perform calculations that, if done by hand, would be time-consuming and prone to errors. “

Use this tool to assist nutrient management planning with users of organic nutrients. Planners should encourage their clients to download and use this tool to help evaluate fertilizer sources and quantities to be applied. It is particularly valuable for organic producers who rely exclusively on organic nutrient sources.

The required files are found in Section 1 of the eFOTG at Technical Notes/Agronomy:

- 1) Instruction Manual: [UserGuideOrganicFertilizerCalc.pdf](#)
- 2) Spreadsheet tool: [Fertilizer_Calculator_v_3.xls](#)