

North Dakota
State University

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Send us an Email!

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The Field Report

NDSU Soil Testing Lab

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New Features:

Starting Summer 2010!

Reports will be automatically emailed to you if there is a valid email address included in your biological data.

This new feature will provide:

- Faster results!
- Conservation of resources
- Access to results at your convenience

* email address to provide future copies of "The Field Report"

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you just ask!

Wheat Recommendation Calculator

Pick up a copy of SF-882 (Revised) "North Dakota Fertilizer Recommendation Tables and Equations" for the new Wheat Recommendations from the Soil Testing Lab or your local extension office. You can also go to the Soil Testing Lab Website at :

<http://www.soilsci.ndsu.nodak.edu/services/Testing/soiltesting/soiltesting.html>

Resources:

Yard, Garden, Disease and Pest Control

For helpful information on farming recommendations, yard and garden questions, pest control and diseases check out our website at:

<http://www.soilsci.ndsu.nodak.edu/services/Testing/soiltesting/soiltesting.html>

Don't forget we will test your lawn and garden samples! Your report will contain nutrient levels and a recommendation tailored to your specific needs.

Extension Offices:

All county extension offices have soil testing supplies on hand in their offices. Feel free to pick up:

- Soil bags
- Sample information forms
- Manure testing kits

Or call our office at 701-231-8942 or email your requests to NDSU.STL@ndsu.edu

Flooding History, Conditions at Odds

Adnan Akyuz NDSU State Climatologist

Even though the historical odds are very slim that the Fargo-Moorhead area will have another major flood this spring, conditions indicate the opposite. In 113 years of recorded history, there were only three incidents when back-to-back major floods occurred. "1965-66, 1978-79 and 2006-07 were the three incidents when the U.S. Geological Survey gauge recorded the stage at or above 30 feet, the major flood stage in Fargo.

Since Fargo-Moorhead had a major flood in 2009, what is the probability that we might have another major flood? Historically, the annual probability that the Red River at Fargo will exceed 30 feet two years in a row is 2.6 percent. However, there were 13 years when major flooding was observed in Fargo-Moorhead: 1897, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1989, 1997, 2001, 2006, 2007 and 2009. That means the odds of having a major flood each year in the F-M area is 11.4 percent.

The bad news is that the current conditions are indicating another major flood is likely. Fargo has received 4.28 inches of precipitation in liquid equivalence since Dec. 1, which is the highest amount in recorded history. By this date last year, Fargo received 3.25 inches. The National Weather Service's latest forecast calls for a 25 percent chance of flooding similar to last year's record flooding.

If we do not have additional significant precipitation and get a slow warm-up and a slow snowmelt rate, we can dodge the disaster. History shows that not all extreme winter precipitations produced major floods. For example, 1994 and 1937, the second and third snowiest seasons, produced peak flood stages of 26.69 and 10.17 feet, respectively. Let's hope for another 1937.

"Sampling and testing manure within a week of an application is very important to achieve accurate results and meet yield goals."

"The Field Report"

Editor:
Kristin Newman

Black Gold: Take Advantage

Manure is a good fertilizer source and needs to be tested for nutrients prior to cropland applications. Sampling and testing manure within a week of an application is very important to achieve accurate results and meet yield goals. Results are only as good as the sample taken. Sampling solid manure involves taking a dozen or so subsamples with a shovel from various locations within a pile and mixing those samples together in a plastic 5 gallon bucket. A composite sample can then be collected from the bucket, placed in a plastic container from the NDSU Soil Testing Lab. It is important to remember to fill the plastic container about three-quarters full so there is room for air and expansion. Label the bottle, place the bottle in a plastic bag, fill out all the information on the manure sample sheet and mail the sample. Forms can be found on the NDSU Soil Testing Lab website or from your local extension office.

Liquid manure should be agitated for 2 to 4 hours before sampling. About 6 samples should be collected by dipping and poured into a plastic 5 gallon bucket. The samples should be mixed and transferred into a plastic sampling bottle from the Soil Testing Lab. Like solid manure, there should be some air left in the bottle.

After collection, it is recommended to freeze or pack the sample in ice and mail it in a cooler. This prevents the changing of chemical and biological, properties. The lab also recommends sending samples early in the week to avoid weekend layovers and maintain sample integrity. There are many nutrients that can be tested, but at the very least, total nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium should be tested.

For more information contact Chris Augustin at the Carrington Research and Extension Center at 701-652-2951, email at chris.augustin@ndsu.edu, or look at the Nutrient Management Website at :

<http://www.ndsu.edu/nm>.