



FOLIAR FERTILIZER

Best  Farming System™
The Soil Rejuvenation Specialists

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The fastest way to get essential nutrients into a plant is by using a foliar fertilizer

As soil becomes dry and compacted ground applied fertilizer struggles to reach the plants root system. Compacted conditions lead to decreased profitability and sometimes crop failure.

The solution is to use a foliar fertilizer. Research has shown the quickest method to get essential nutrients into a plant is through a method called foliar feeding. Foliar feeding involves applying a liquid fertilizer directly onto a plants leaves and stem. Foliar feeding can nourish the entire plant within a few hours of being applied¹.

Foliar fertilizer is recommended when:

- Soil conditions are low in nutrients.
- When soil is compacted. Compacted soil creates a impermeable barrier that prevents fertilizer from being absorbed and transported deep into the soil where it is needed.
- There is a risk of low rain fall or a lack of irrigation.
- When plants have poor root development or damaged roots.

Soil quality is directly related to profitability

Chemical fertilizers strip the soil of important bacteria and microbial organisms. This leads to nutrient deficient, compacted soil, an unhealthy environment for crops and decreased profitability.





The problem

Annual use of chemical fertilizers to increase yield strips soil of fundamental organisms and nutrients.

This disrupts the balanced relationship between the soil and plant ecosystem and leads to decreased soil fertility. Soil becomes hard, compacted and unable to retain moisture or sustain healthy plant growth.

As soil becomes depleted, it creates a positive environment for disease and pests, putting already weakened plants even more at risk. To sustain yields, more chemical fertilizer, fungicides and pesticides are needed, creating a costly cycle of soil nutrient depletion and fertilizer dependence¹.

What's more, dry compact soil is less able to absorb and distribute water to a plant's root system which leads to stunted root development and crop yield.

Dried out soil can also pose other problems, including greater tillage costs and increased risk of erosion.

Less healthy plants are also more susceptible to insect infestation².

¹ Plant Research International., "Foliar Fertilizer Application." VFCR Report 2013/2

² For example, Dr. M. Stapper, "Soil Fertility Management—Towards Sustainable Farming Systems and Landscapes", CISIRO Sustainability Network Update No. 61E, Sep. 14, 2006; "Soil Erosion – Causes and Effects", Web page fact sheet, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/12-053.htm>

² Plant Research International., "Foliar Fertilizer Application." VFCR Report 2013/2

² For example, Dr. M. Stapper, "Soil Fertility Management—Towards Sustainable Farming Systems and Landscapes", CISIRO Sustainability Network Update No. 61E, Sep. 14, 2006; "Soil Erosion – Causes and Effects", Web page fact sheet, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/12-053.html>

³ Dr. Robert L. Mikkelsen, "Where Does Foliar Fertilizer Fit In?", Plant Nutrition Today, International Plant Nutrition Institute, Spring 2008, No. 3; A. Alexander and M. Schroeder, "Fertilizer use efficiency: Modern trends in foliar fertilization", Journal of Plant Nutrition, vol. 10, issue 9-16, 1987.

⁴ For example, E. Kolota and M. Osinska, "Efficiency of Foliar Nutrition of Field Vegetables Grown at Different Nitrogen Rates", International Society for Horticultural Science, Acta Horticulturae 563: International Conference on Environmental Problems Associated with Nitrogen Fertilisation of Field Grown Vegetable Crops; Dr. Bill Weir, "Foliar Potassium Bumps Cotton Yields: California researcher reports consistent yield increases to foliar-applied potassium over a period of years in the San Joaquin Valley", Fluid Journal, Fall 1998; N. K. Fageria, M.P. Barbosa Filho, A. Moreira and C. M. Guimarães, "Foliar fertilization of crop plants", Journal of Soil Science, vol. 32, issue 6, 2009.

The solution

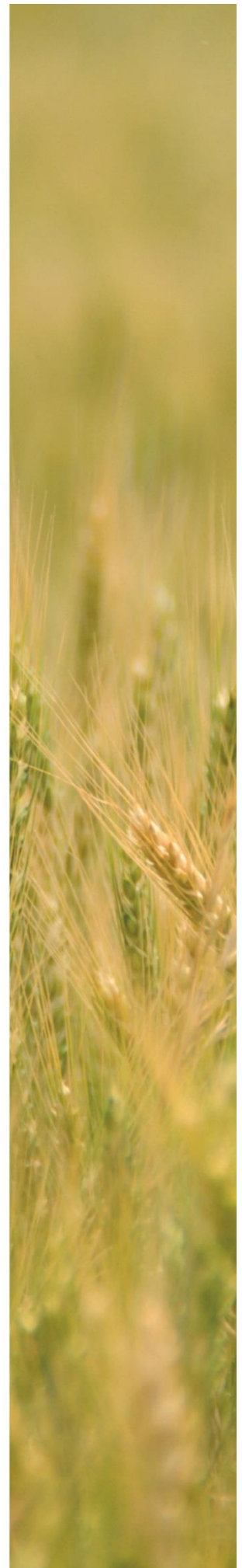
If applying ground fertilizer consistently over time degrades soil, the solution is to get fertilizer nutrients into a plant without requiring the soil to transport the fertilizer. Foliar fertilizer is applied directly to the leaves of a crop, rather than spread on or injected directly into the ground. This gives foliar fertilization a number of additional advantages that include the following:

- Quicker nutrient absorption by the plant.
- Provides minerals such as zinc and copper that may not be readily available for plant roots to take up from the soil.
- Can be applied when ground conditions may not be suitable for ground-applied fertilizers.

Foliar also has the potential to significantly increase crop yield. A variety of studies have shown that given the right conditions foliar can improve the harvest volume for a range of crops, even non-foodstuffs such as cotton. Foliar can also be more economical.

Foliar – The Best Farming System advantages

Not all foliar fertilizers are the same. Plants need both macro nutrients and micro nutrients. Some foliar fertilizers have only macro nutrients which include phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium. Best's TM foliar fertilizer has both macro nutrients and micro nutrients. The micro nutrient package includes zinc, copper, boron, manganese, cobalt, chromium, calcium, fluoride, iodine, iron, molybdenum, and selenium. These micro nutrients play an important role in strengthening the plants immune system which protects the plant through the growing season.

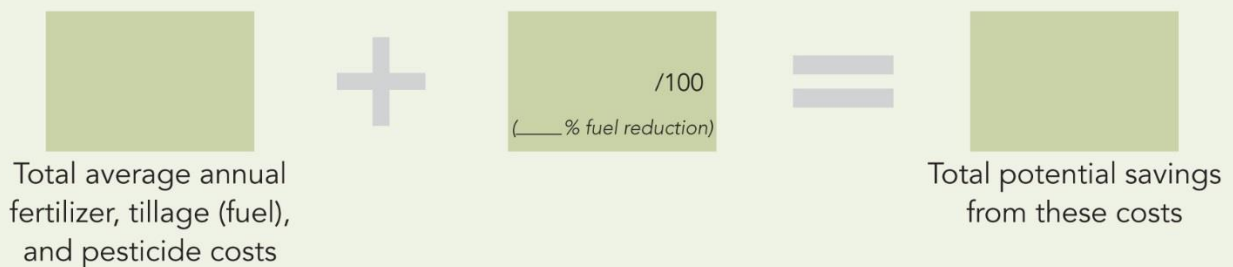


If Best's™ foliar fertilizers could decrease your costs by _____% and increase your crop yield by just _____%, how much extra would that increase your profitability?



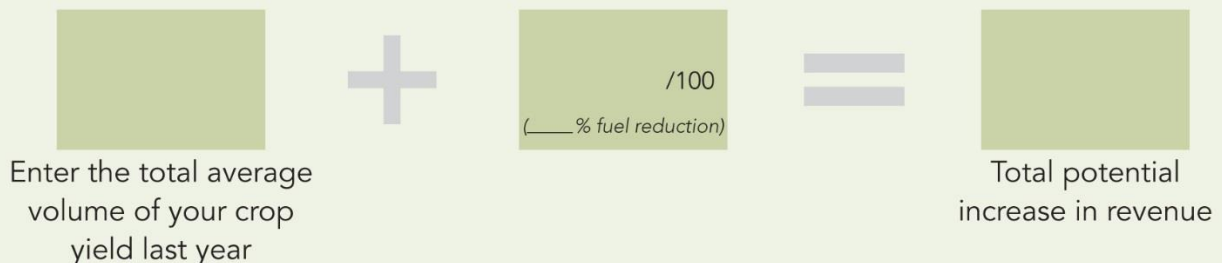
STEP 1

Enter your estimated total annual fertilizer, tillage (fuel) and pesticide costs and multiply by _____%.



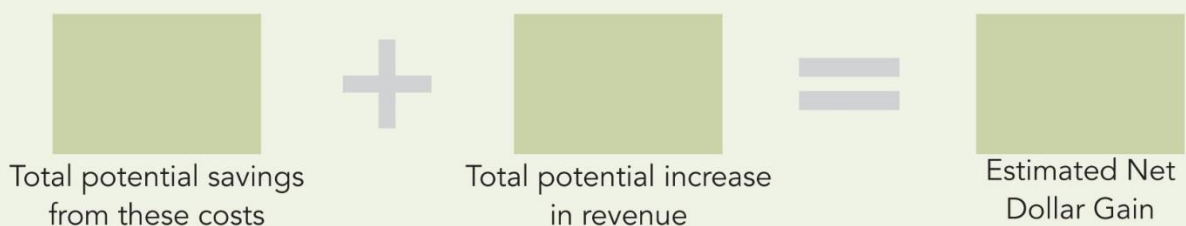
STEP 2

Enter your total crop volume and estimated average yield increase and multiply by estimated percent increase %.



STEP 3

Add the total value of the increased crop to the total potential savings:



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