

Origin **Sweetgrass**

23% Nitrogen + 5% Sulphur + 5% Sodium

What is **Sweetgrass**?

Sweetgrass is a high-N grassland fertiliser specifically designed to increase sward palatability and maximise milk and meat production from grass for optimum economic returns.

Why use **Sweetgrass**?

- ✓ Palatability is key to optimum grass utilisation
- ✓ **Sweetgrass** improves palatability
- ✓ Improved palatability = increased intake
- ✓ Improved palatability = tighter grazing
- ✓ Increased intake and tighter grazing = optimum grass utilisation
- ◀ Improving palatability is particularly beneficial when grass becomes less digestible or following slurry application which can 'sour' pastures

Nitrogen (N):	Sulphur (S):	Sodium (Na):
✓ Essential for grass growth	✓ Increases N uptake	✓ Improves palatability
✓ Photosynthesis	✓ Increases Dry Matter (DM)	✓ Increases DM intake
✓ Protein production	✓ Protein production	✓ Encourages tighter grazing

Sweetgrass: product recommendations

Situation	Timing	Rate
Early grazing	Apply Sweetgrass 6 – 8 weeks before turn-out	250 kg/ha (2 cwt/acre)
Rotational grazing	Apply Sweetgrass for each grazing cycle at the required N rate in relation to stocking density	190 – 250 kg/ha (1½ - 2 cwt/acre)
Aftermath grazing	Apply Sweetgrass directly after cutting for rapid re-growth of palatable grass	190 – 250 kg/ha (1½ - 2 cwt/acre)
Silage	Apply Sweetgrass 6 – 8 weeks before cutting	375 – 625 kg/ha (3 – 5 cwt/acre)

Sweetgrass

- **Sweetgrass** is particularly suitable where slurry / FYM is being applied and soil P and K levels are medium to high.
- The above recommendations are for guidelines only. Please consult your FACTS Qualified Advisor for a detailed recommendation based on your specific requirements and situation.



Sodium – an essential livestock nutrient

1. Sodium and livestock:

Sodium is an essential nutrient for livestock health and performance. Sodium deficiency can lead to potentially serious clinical disorders and production losses, including:

- ⊗ Loss of appetite and reduced dry matter intake (DMI)
- ⊗ Reduced milk yield
- ⊗ Increased somatic cell count
- ⊗ Increased risk of hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers)

2. Sodium and grass:

Although grass does not need sodium, its uptake produces significant benefits, including:

- ✓ Higher % of live herbage
- ✓ Higher D values
- ✓ Increased sugar content
- ✓ Better utilisation of swards
- ✓ Improved palatability and digestibility

Bangor University researched the effects of applying sodium as a grassland fertiliser over many years and the results are summarised in the table below:

Parameter	Nitrogen	Nitrogen + Sodium	% +/-
Digestibility (D value, %)	71.6	72.9	+ 1.8%
Sugar content (%)	29.4	32.3	+ 9.9%
Intake (kg DM/cow/day)	14.0	16.6	+ 18.6%
Milk yield (l/cow/day)	22.6	24.7	+ 9.3%
Butterfat (g/cow/day)	833	963	+ 15.6%
Somatic cell count (SCC)		Significantly reduced	

Source: Philips et al, Bangor University, 1991

3. Sodium in fertilisers:

- ✓ Sodium is not firmly held in soils therefore a 'little and often' approach to application is ideal
- ✓ Regular applications of 10 – 12 kg/ha of Na₂O (8 – 10 units per acre) is recommended
- ✓ **Sweetgrass** provides the optimum levels of sodium



Talk to us about prescription nutrition

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