

Penn State Pointers ► Choosing Fertilizers... Buying Quality, Not Quantity

Graphics / Illustration: Tom Laird, College of Agricultural Sciences. Copyright Penn State.

The illustration shows a green bag of fertilizer labeled "TURF BUDDY 10-5-5" with a price tag of "\$14.95". A callout box provides a "Guaranteed Analysis" of the fertilizer's components. Four numbered callouts provide advice on how to evaluate the fertilizer's value based on price, nutrient grade, crop suitability, and bag weight.

1 Don't buy fertilizer based strictly on price. A fertilizer's value depends on the total amount of nutrients it contains.

2 The 'grade' is the percentage of nutrients always listed on the bag in this order: nitrogen, phosphate and potash.

3 Be sure the mix is right for the crop you're growing. Have your soil tested to help you buy the proper fertilizer.

4 The weight of the bag helps in determining value. For example, this bag contains 8 pounds of nitrogen, 4 pounds of phosphate, 4 pounds of potash and 64 pounds of filler and carriers for the nutrients.

Guaranteed Analysis:
Total Nitrogen (N) 10%
1.0% Ammoniacal Nitrogen
7.4 % Urea Nitrogen
1.6% Water-Soluble Nitrogen
Avail. Phosphoric Acid (P₂O₅) 5%
Soluble Potash (K₂O) 5%
80 lb.

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