Alfalfa - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.8 • Always inoculate alfalfa seed; repeat inoculum if in doubt of the viability. • Soil pH is critical for alfalfa success, as are good soil phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertility. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Alfalfa is the forage crop with the best monthly forage distribution due to its deep tap rooted nature. Always inoculate alfalfa seed; repeat inoculum if in doubt of the viability. Late-summer, early fall seedings are most likely to succeed. Roundup Ready™ alfalfa is now available; follow label directions carefully for success. Consider no-till planting orchardgrass, a tetraploid perennial ryegrass, or festulolium to extend the life of an alfalfa stand. Select grazing or rhizomatous alfalfa cultivars if the crop will be grazed.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.8

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in alfalfa grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for alfalfa.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for alfalfa.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not common in alfalfa forage and hay crops but may occur if the stand contains more than 25% legumes. If the forage stand is less than 25% legumes, B application is not required. If B deficiency symptoms appear on a cool season grass in season, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations. If B deficiency symptoms appear in season on a cool season grass/legume mix stand with more than 25% legumes, follow the guidelines below.

1. Apply B at a rate of 2.0 to 4.0 lb/ac each year.
2. Boron can be applied in a blended, broadcast fertilizer, as a soil spray or applied in a foliar spray, generally in late May or June. ***Foliar applications should only be made when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar B.***
3. **Caution:** Although B is required for maximum productivity of hay fields containing legumes, even slight over-application can be toxic to the crop. When applying B as a foliar spray, be certain to apply the correct rate.

Alfalfa/Grass Mixed - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.8 • Always inoculate alfalfa seed; repeat inoculum if in doubt of the viability. • Nitrogen (N) management can alter proportions of legume and grass in the stand. • Soil pH is critical for alfalfa success, as are good soil phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertility. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Always inoculate alfalfa seed; repeat inoculum if in doubt of the viability. Late-summer, early fall seedings are most likely to succeed. Select a Roundup Ready™ cultivar to establish a strong, weed-free alfalfa stand can help yield potential; no-till in a grass crop after alfalfa establishes. Try to match alfalfa cultivar maturity date with grass cultivar maturity for best stand performance. Nitrogen (N) management can alter proportions of legume and grass in the stand. In addition, high soil pH, phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) can favor the legume component of the mix. Alfalfa/grass mixes require careful management to control weeds. Select grazing or rhizomatous alfalfa cultivars if the crop will be grazed.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.8

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in alfalfa/grass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for alfalfa/grass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for alfalfa/grass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not common in alfalfa/grass forage and hay crops but may occur if the stand contains more than 25% legumes. If the forage stand is less than 25% legumes, B application is not required. If B deficiency symptoms appear on a cool season grass in season, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations. If B deficiency symptoms appear in season on a cool season grass/legume mix stand with more than 25% legumes, follow the guidelines below.

1. Apply B at a rate of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac each year.
2. Boron can be applied in a blended, broadcast fertilizer, as a soil spray or applied in a foliar spray, generally in late May or June. ***Foliar applications should only be made when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar B.***
3. **Caution:** Although B is required for maximum productivity of hay fields containing legumes, even slight over-application can be toxic to the crop. When applying B as a foliar spray, be certain to apply the correct rate.

Annual or Italian Ryegrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Best used as an emergency forage. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

The best use of annual or Italian ryegrass is as emergency forage because the crop is short-lived. There are two subtypes of annual ryegrass available, one a true annual and the other (Italian) more like a very short-lived perennial. This crop germinates and emerges in 3 to 7 days. Italian ryegrass is an excellent species for extending a legumes (alfalfa) stand life using no-till seeding.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in annual or Italian ryegrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for annual or Italian ryegrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for annual or Italian ryegrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in annual or ltalian ryegrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Brassica/Grass Mix - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.2 • Inexpensive and useful as emergency forage or to extend grazing season. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Brassica/grass mixes are useful as emergency forage or for extending the grazing season. This inexpensive crop can provide quick, abundant feed of high digestibility, energy, and protein. Brassica/grass mixes are easily established using a no-till drill on established pasture. This crop is useful for flushing ewes or putting weight on lambs.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.2

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in brassica/grass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for brassica/grass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for brassica/grass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in brassica/grass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Chicory/Grass Mix - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 5.8 • High-yielding alternative forage. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Chicory is a deep-rooted, perennial, drought-tolerant, high yielding alternative forage that is beneficial for small ruminant grazing. If not seeded with the grass species, chicory can be planted via no-till into heavily-grazed grass stands (to lower competitiveness). Chicory seed can be drilled or broadcast into existing pastures in late winter to early spring, preferably before May 15 to prevent slug damage. Control bolting with rotational grazing management. Begin grazing at 8 to 10 inches and stop at 1 to 2 inches of residual growth.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 5.8

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in chicory/grass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for chicory/grass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for chicory/grass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in chicory/grass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Grass/Legume Mix - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Apply appropriate inoculum to promote legume establishment. • Nitrogen (N) management can alter proportions of legume and grass in the stand. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Select the legume and grasses to complement each other and match them for maturity date and plant height. Use the correct inoculum for the selected legume component to promote establishment.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in mixed grass/clover grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for mixed grass/clover.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for mixed grass/clover.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not common in mixed grass/clover forage and hay crops but may occur if the stand contains more than 25% legumes. If the forage stand is less than 25% legumes, B application is not required. If B deficiency symptoms appear on a cool season grass in season, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations. If B deficiency symptoms appear in season on a cool season grass/legume mix stand with more than 25% legumes, follow the guidelines below.

1. Apply B at a rate of 0.5 to 1.0 lb/ac each year.
2. Boron can be applied in a blended, broadcast fertilizer, as a soil spray or applied in a foliar spray, generally in late May or June. ***Foliar applications should only be made when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar B.***
3. **Caution:** Although B is required for maximum productivity of hay fields containing legumes, even slight over-application can be toxic to the crop. When applying B as a foliar spray, be certain to apply the correct rate.

Kentucky Bluegrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Low yields during summer months. • Wait until the grass is 2 to 3 inches tall before applying nitrogen (N) fertilizer. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Kentucky bluegrass produces a highly palatable feed source for horse, sheep, and cattle. This crop produces the most forage during cool of spring and some in fall, however, yields tend to be on the lower side. Seed Kentucky bluegrass in late summer to early fall. Kentucky bluegrass seed can take 2 to 3 weeks to germinate and longer to emerge but spreads quickly once established. Avoid planting bluegrass seed deeper than ¼ to ½ inches; the crop can be drilled or broadcast. Wait until the grass is 2 to 3 inches tall before applying nitrogen (N) fertilizer. Seeding with a legume, like white clover, can help overcome low summer yields. Kentucky bluegrass can also be seeded with tall grasses, such as orchardgrass, timothy, smooth bromegrass, or tall fescue, especially if used for hay.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in Kentucky bluegrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for Kentucky bluegrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for Kentucky bluegrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in Kentucky bluegrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Orchardgrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Orchardgrass decline syndrome can shorten stand life. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Orchardgrass can be seeded in fall or spring. Allow adequate time for establishment before hay harvest or grazing. Orchardgrass decline syndrome is present in this region and shortens the stand life of this grass; rotating fields is advised.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in orchardgrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for orchardgrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for orchardgrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in orchardgrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Perennial Ryegrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Short-lived perennial best suited for northern Delaware. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Perennial ryegrass is a short-lived perennial in our region; it performs best in the northern Delaware with adequate moisture. Select tetraploid cultivars, as they yield better than diploid cultivars. This crop is excellent as no-till interseeded crop to extend the stand life of legume crops. Plant with a legume companion crop where frost heaving can occur.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in perennial ryegrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for perennial ryegrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for perennial ryegrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in perennial ryegrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Red Clover - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Best suited for cattle and sheep; not for horses (slobbers). • Nitrogen (N) management can alter proportions of legume and grass in the stand. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Red clover is best suited for cattle and sheep feed; do not plant for horses due to slobbers. The best yield and grazing gains come if red clover is seeded with an accompanying forage grass. Red clover can be frost-crack seeded at the end of winter but stand density may be too low for hay. Inoculum is often not needed due to how widespread clover use. Older cultivars survive only 1.5 to 2 years as stands thin. Rotate red clover in fields as disease pressure builds with time.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in red clover grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for red clover.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for red clover.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not common in red clover forage and hay crops but may occur if the stand contains more than 25% legumes. If the forage stand is less than 25% legumes, B application is not required. If B deficiency symptoms appear on a cool season grass in season, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations. If B deficiency symptoms appear in season on a cool season grass/legume mix stand with more than 25% legumes, follow the guidelines below.

1. Apply B at a rate of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac each year.
2. Boron can be applied in a blended, broadcast fertilizer, as a soil spray or applied in a foliar spray, generally in late May or June. ***Foliar applications should only be made when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar B.***
3. **Caution:** Although B is required for maximum productivity of hay fields containing legumes, even slight over-application can be toxic to the crop. When applying B as a foliar spray, be certain to apply the correct rate.

1.

Reed Canarygrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Grows well with Ladino-type white clover. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Seed contains a high concentration of oil that can go rancid and reduce germination; choose only low alkaloid cultivars. This crop requires six weeks before frost to establish adequately so seed in late summer prior to September 10. Seedlings are not competitive with weeds so spring seedings often fail. Plant into weed-free seedbed because initial growth is very slow. Seed is usually very expensive, if even available, and seed viability declines rapidly due to high oil content in the seed. Plant low alkaloid cultivars for most animal species. This crop grows well with Ladino-type white clover.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in reed canarygrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for reed canarygrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for reed canarygrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in reed canarygrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Sericea Lespedeza - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.2 • Crop is more tolerant of low pH and infertile or droughty soils than clover. • Little nitrogen (N) is shared between this legume crop and companion grasses. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Seed sericea lespedeza alone as it does not compete well with other plants. This hay crop is more tolerant of acid (low pH) and infertile or droughty soils than clover. Although sericea lespedeza is a legume, little nitrogen (N) is shared between this crop and companion grasses. This species contains moderate levels of condensed tannins, which can reduce parasite loads in small ruminants. If not cut or grazed, the stand often persists due to late summer and fall seed production.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.2

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in sericea lespedeza grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for sericea lespedeza.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for sericea lespedeza.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in sericea lespedeza. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Smooth Bromegrass - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Suited only for high-quality soils in northern Delaware locations. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Smooth bromegrass is suited only for high-quality soils in northern Delaware locations. Smooth bromegrass seed is light and chaffy, which can complicate seeding; check often for seed bridging in seed box. Avoid planting seed deeper than ¼ to ½ inch.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in smooth bromegrass grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for smooth bromegrass.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for smooth bromegrass.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in smooth bromegrass. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Tall Fescue - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Use the novel or friendly endophyte cultivars for best stand life and improved performance. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Use the novel or friendly endophyte cultivars for best stand life and improved performance. Old endophyte infected tall fescue cultivars contain toxic alkaloids. Endophyte-free cultivars can be useful when a shorter-term crop is desired. Soft-leafed cultivars are available and may improve fescue palatability. If fall planted, take the first harvest the following spring as hay, allow to regrow before grazing if pasture. Best stand life and productivity occur if allowed to establish for 12 to 18 months before grazing.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in tall fescue grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for tall fescue.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for tall fescue.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in tall fescue. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

Timothy - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Performance is site-specific. • Cereal rust mite damage can mimic severe nitrogen (N) deficiency. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

Timothy seeds are small, making it easy to plant too deep. Performance of timothy is very site specific. Rotate out of timothy for several years If the field has a history of cereal rust mites.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of 20 to 30 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in timothy hay grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

MnAI = Mn availability index
Soil pH = Soil pH measured in water (1:1 V:V)
M3-Mn = Mehlich 3 soil test Mn in lb/ac

Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for timothy hay.

Mn Availability Index	Interpretation
Less than 17	Mn deficiency is likely at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration
17 to 25	Mn deficiency is possible at this soil pH and soil test Mn concentration. Monitor the crop for symptoms, especially if liming has been recommended.
Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for timothy hay.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is higher than 7.0	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is less than 3.1 lb/ac **AND** soil pH is 6.6 or higher **AND** M3-P is 100 FIV or higher	Zn deficiency is predicted
M3-Zn is 3.2 lb/ac or higher	Zn deficiency is NOT predicted

If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not usually observed in timothy hay. If B deficiency symptoms appear, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations.

White Clover - New Seeding

Crop Highlights
• Target pH: 6.5 • Best yields and animal performance occur if with white clover is seeded with an accompanying forage grass. • Nitrogen (N) management can alter proportions of legume and grass in the stand. • Apply sulfur (S) when seeding forage crops to prevent S deficiency in early growth. • Forage and hay crops are moderately sensitive to manganese (Mn) deficiency.

Management Notes

White clover seed if very small; avoid seeding too deep. White clover seed is excellent for use in frost-crack seedings in late-winter or early-spring. Inoculum is often not needed due widespread clover use; using inoculum can only increase yields. The best yields and animal performance occur if with white clover is seeded with an accompanying forage grass, like Kentucky bluegrass.

Yield Goal

Yield goals are not made for new seedings of perennial forages. Instead, these recommendations are designed to promote good establishment of the forage for future productivity and discourage weed competition.

Target pH: 6.5

Soils that are high in organic matter (e.g., "black" soils; soil organic matter >6.0%) have a lower target pH (5.6) because organic matter moderates some of the negative effects of excessive soil acidity (e.g., aluminum toxicity).

The lime recommendation for a specific field is calculated from the soil pH and Adam-Evans buffer pH measurements using the steps outlined in the UD Extension Fact Sheet ***Calculating the Lime Requirement Using the Adams-Evans Soil Buffer***. Avoid over-liming to prevent deficiency of micronutrients such as manganese (Mn).

The recommended liming source is dependent upon Mehlich-3 (M3) soil test calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) reported as a University of Delaware fertility index value (FIV) and can be determined using Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended type of lime as a function of Mehlich-3 soil test calcium (M3-Ca) and magnesium (M3-Mg) concentrations.

Soil Test Levels	Recommended Lime Type
M3-Mg is less than 50 FIV	Dolomitic
M3-Mg between 50 and 100 FIV AND M3-Mg is less than M3-Ca	Dolomitic
M3-Mg greater than 100 FIV	Calcitic
M3-Mg is greater than 50 FIV AND M3-Mg is greater than M3-Ca	Calcitic

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilization rates are based on regional research on crop response to N fertilizers and not on the results of a routine soil test. Follow these recommendations for new seedings only. Switch to nutrient recommendations for established hay after the first cutting or established forage after the first grazing cycle. Nitrogen application is not required if the seeding mix contains legumes. However, up to 25 lb/ac of N can be applied to encourage growth without having a negative impact on N fixation. Always inoculate or use inoculated seed for non-clover legumes. Clover seed does not require inoculation due to widespread use but applying an inoculant can only help.

1. For late summer, fall, or very early spring seedings, apply N at a rate of up to 20 lb/ac at or prior to planting if little weed competition is expected.
2. For mid- to late-spring seedings, do not apply N until the seedlings are 2 to 4 inches tall to avoid stimulating weed competition. Broadcast N at a rate of up to 25 lb/ac when forage growth reaches a height of 2 to 4 inches if weed pressure is not at a competitive level.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus (P) fertilization is based on the results of a routine soil test (Table 2). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 2. Recommended phosphorus rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test phosphorus (M3-P) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-P (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb P_2O_5/ac	120	110	100	85	75	65	50	40	25	10	0

1. If M3 soil test P (M3-P) is “Low” or “Medium” (i.e., 50 FIV or less), broadcast and plow down the recommended rate of phosphate (P_2O_5) fertilizer prior to seeding.
2. If M3-P is “Optimum” (i.e., 51 to 100 FIV), broadcast and incorporate P_2O_5 fertilizer prior to seeding or surface broadcast at or shortly after planting.
3. If M3-P is “Excessive” (i.e., greater than 100 FIV), the application of phosphorus in fertilizers or manures is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Potassium

The need for potassium (K) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 3). Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 3. Recommended potassium rate to reach optimum Mehlich-3 soil test potassium (M3-K) levels to support good forage establishment and future productivity.

	M3-K (UD FIV)										
	0	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**60**	**70**	**80**	**90**	**100**
lb K_2O/ac	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	0

1. Broadcast and incorporate potash (K_2O) fertilizer at or prior to seeding.
2. Application rates of 120 lb/ac of K_2O or higher should be split into two applications. Apply ½ of the recommended rate after the first cutting and the remainder in late August or September.

Magnesium

The need for magnesium (Mg) fertilization is determined by a routine soil test (Table 4); Mg needs are often met by liming. Soil test results are reported as a fertility index value (FIV).

Table 4. Recommended application rates of soluble magnesium as a function of soil test magnesium (M3-Mg).

	M3-Mg (UD FIV)								
	0	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**	**30**	**35**	**40**
lb soluble Mg/ac	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

1. Magnesium (Mg) is recommended when M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV.
2. Use dolomitic limestone if M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.
3. If M3-Mg is less than 40 FIV and lime is not needed, apply soluble Mg (Mg sulfate or Mg chloride) according to the rates in Table 4.

Sulfur

Sulfur (S) deficiency is occasionally observed in white clover grown on Delaware soils. Symptoms include reduced growth and a general yellowing of the plant. Newly planted forage crops are susceptible to S deficiency because their shallow root systems do not allow the crop to tap into subsoil stores of S.

1. Apply S at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac to ensure that adequate sulfur is available to meet crop needs.
2. Broadcast S prior to seeding or use ammonium sulfate as an N source to supply needed S.
3. Sulfate-S is available immediately for crop uptake immediately after application. If a reduced form of S is applied (e.g., thiosulfate or elemental S), allow adequate time for the applied S to oxidize to the sulfate form.

Prediction of S deficiency is difficult. Currently available soil tests are not good predictors of S deficiency situations because only surface soil samples are analyzed. Many Delaware soils have a supply of plant available S in subsoil horizons that will not be detected in soil samples taken from shallower depths. Subsoil sampling to a depth of 24 inches is highly recommended as a means of identifying soils with subsoil reserves of S.

Long-term applications of ammonium sulfate or other acid-forming fertilizers may lower pH of the soil surface and require correction with lime. Monitor surface pH with a 0- to 2-inch soil sample, especially in pasture systems.

Manganese

Manganese (Mn) needs are predicted by an availability index (MnAI) that includes M3 soil test Mn (M3-Mn) and soil pH. Interpretation of MnAI is crop specific (Table 5). Forage crops are moderately sensitive to Mn deficiency. Soil test Mn results are reported in lb/ac.

MnAI = 101.7 – (15.2 × soil pH) + (2.11 × M3-Mn)

Where:

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Table 5. Interpretation of manganese availability index for white clover.

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Greater than 25	Mn deficiency is unlikely.

1. If Mn deficiency is predicted or was observed in the previous growing season, broadcast Mn at a rate of 20 to 40 lb/ac.
2. Broadcast applications of acid forming fertilizers may correct Mn deficiency without the actual application of Mn in some cases but may be less effective than applications of Mn. Long term application of acid forming fertilizers will require pH correction with lime.
3. If Mn deficiency symptoms appear during the growing season or after an application of lime, a foliar application of 1.0 to 2.0 lb/ac actual Mn as Mn sulfate, Mn oxide or chelated Mn can alleviate the symptoms and restore yield potential. Foliar applications can be applied before fall dormancy or after growth resumes in the spring. ***Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar Mn.*** Foliar application can be repeated if symptoms reappear.

Zinc

Zinc (Zn) deficiency is predicted by an availability index that includes M3 soil test Zn, soil pH, and M3 soil test P. Zinc deficiency is most common on soils with a pH of 6.5 or higher and high soil test P concentrations but may also be induced by environmental conditions such as cold, wet soils that may limit root growth. See Table 6 to determine if Zn deficiency is predicted for this field.

Table 6. Interpretation of zinc availability index for white clover.

Soil Test Criteria	Interpretation
M3-Zn is less than 1.9 lb/ac	Zn deficiency is predicted
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If Zn deficiency is predicted by the availability index or was observed the previous year, one of the following treatments can be applied:

1. Broadcast Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 10 to 12 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate (Zn-EDTA) at a rate of 2 to 3 lb/ac elemental Zn. Broadcast applications should correct Zn deficiency for several years.
2. Foliar application of Zn sulfate or Zn oxide at a rate of 1 lb/ac elemental Zn or Zn chelate at a rate of 0.5 lb/ac elemental Zn in 20 to 50 gallons of water. **Apply only when adequate growth is present to aid in the adsorption of foliar Zn.** Foliar Zn application should be repeated if symptoms re-appear.

Boron

Boron (B) deficiency is not common in white clover forage and hay crops but may occur if the stand contains more than 25% legumes. If the forage stand is less than 25% legumes, B application is not required. If B deficiency symptoms appear on a cool season grass in season, contact your county agent for assistance with diagnosis and corrective recommendations. If B deficiency symptoms appear in season on a cool season grass/legume mix stand with more than 25% legumes, follow the guidelines below.

1. Apply B at a rate of 0.5 to 1.0 lb/ac each year.
2. Boron can be applied in a blended, broadcast fertilizer, as a soil spray or applied in a foliar spray, generally in late May or June. ***Foliar applications should only be made when adequate growth is present to aid absorption of foliar B.***
3. **Caution:** Although B is required for maximum productivity of hay fields containing legumes, even slight over-application can be toxic to the crop. When applying B as a foliar spray, be certain to apply the correct rate.