Online Fertilization Guidelines for Major Crops in California

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Background
Numerous research projects have investigated different aspects of fertilizer management for crops grown in California. However, a comprehensive, research-based overview of fertilizer management in California is missing for many crops.

In collaboration with CDFA-FREP we are synthesizing peer reviewed journal articles and research reports. The resulting fertilization guidelines are available online in a user-friendly interface.

The guidelines include information about:
- Fertilization (rate, time, placement, and material)
- Deficiency symptoms
- Soil testing
- Plant tissue analyses

The guidelines provide a basis for in-depth discussions with local farm advisors or fertilization experts about site-specific adjustments.

Crops Currently Available

- Almonds
- Barley
- Walnuts
- Wheat
- Cotton
- Lettuce
- Strawberries
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Tomatoes
- Citrus
- Rice
- Pistachio
- Alfalfa

Additional crops will be added on a flow basis.

http://apps.cdfa.ca.gov/frep/docs/guidelines.html

Processing Tomatoes Fertilization Guidelines
Funding provided by:

- For drip-irrigated processing tomatoes, Hartz and Bottoms found that a seasonal rate of approximately 175 lbs N/acre is adequate to maximize fruit yields in most soils. Contact your local farm advisor for more information.

- Krusekopf and coworkers carried out a study in the Central Valley in ten furrow-irrigated fields. A response to N fertilization was observed in only four fields. In the responsive fields, no significant yield increase with sidedress N application rates above 100 lbs/acre was observed. The total available N in these fields, which included the pre-sidedress nitrate-N in the top 2 feet of the profile and the sidedress N, averaged 170 lbs/acre. Based on this and other studies, the recommended seasonal N application rate for furrow-irrigated tomatoes is 100-150 lbs N/acre.

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