

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY SPLIT APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON CORN USING  
PRE-SIDEDRESS NITRATE TEST TO DETERMINE NEED FOR SIDEDRESS NITROGEN  
WHEN ORGANIC NITROGEN SOURCES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPLIED  
DCR Specification for No. VNM-3C

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary split application of nitrogen on corn using pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) to determine the need for sidedress nitrogen when organic sources of nitrogen have been previously applied practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will document the split application of nitrogen on corn. For fields receiving only nitrogen fertilizer; split applications will be based upon soil sample results and the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). All secondary or split applications will be applied at a growth stage (15" to 24" tall) when the plant is entering the highest demand for nitrogen.

For fields that have previously received manure or biosolids applications according to the current NMP a pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) will be used to determine the amount of nitrogen, necessary in the split application.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility:
  - i. Eligibility for this practice is limited to the length of the plan recommending the sidedress practice.
  - ii. Farmer must keep a written verification (such as a work order, bill or field records) to document the application.
  - iii. Producers must be fully implementing a current nutrient management plan prepared and signed by a certified nutrient management planner that specifies manure or biosolids applications and PSNT as appropriate. A copy of the current nutrient management plan and the nutrient application record keeping form (located in the glossary and forms section of this manual) shall be maintained in the participant's practice folder.
  - iv. SWCD staff should utilize the NMP maps, nutrient balance sheets, and summary sheets to confirm practice implementation. A comparison between crop recommendations and in field conditions shall be used when certifying conservation practice compliance.
2. Checks to insure compliance with this practice may be conducted by the SWCD or appropriate agency personnel.
3. Application of any sidedress nitrogen must be made after the corn is at the 6-leaf stage or at least 15" in height.

4. Total nitrogen to be applied to the cornfield must be consistent with the nutrient management plan or determined by using a PSNT consistent with procedures contained in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, 4 VAC 50-85 et. seq.
5. This is an annual practice.
6. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and SWCD staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE . Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above, and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA), for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

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