

Productivity Highlights

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Super Phos and Super Potash for quality pasture production

Background

Producers can obtain excellent returns for investing in fertiliser applications to pastures.

- Super Phos contains phosphorus (P), sulfur (S) and calcium (Ca), which are essential for plant and animal growth.
- Super Potash supplies P, S, Ca and potassium (K), which is important for legume growth and seed set.
- K deficiency is becoming more widespread on soils previously believed to be adequate in K.

Key Results

Super Phos and Super Potash provide the following immediate benefits:

- Increased pasture production and early feed.
- Improved legume content and pasture quality.
- More nitrogen for following crops from increased legume production.
- Greater carrying capacity and stocking rate.
- Increased wool, meat and milk production with improved quality.
- Greater profits.

Long-term benefits include:

- Improved soil organic matter, P and nitrogen contents.
- Increased yields of following cereal and canola crops.
- Reduction in the need for hand feeding over summer.



Pasture produced without Super Phos – note small clover plants and dominance of broad-leaved weeds and grasses (Jingalup 1996).



Productive grazed pasture with Super Phos application – note dominance of clover (Jingalup 1996).

The most effective time to topdress Super Phos and Super Potash is late summer or autumn, before the break of season. This is because it:

- Provides early feed production and improved quality at the most critical time of the year.
- Ensures better seedling survival under dry conditions.
- Improves labour efficiency.
- Frees up storage for cropping fertilisers

Summary

- Super Phos and Super Potash enhance soil fertility, pasture growth and quality – hence improving stock production and increasing profits.
- One additional DSE (Dry Sheep Equivalent) per hectare is worth \$30 to \$35 gross margin per hectare.
- After 80 years of use in WA, Super Phos continues to be the fertiliser choice for pastures.

