

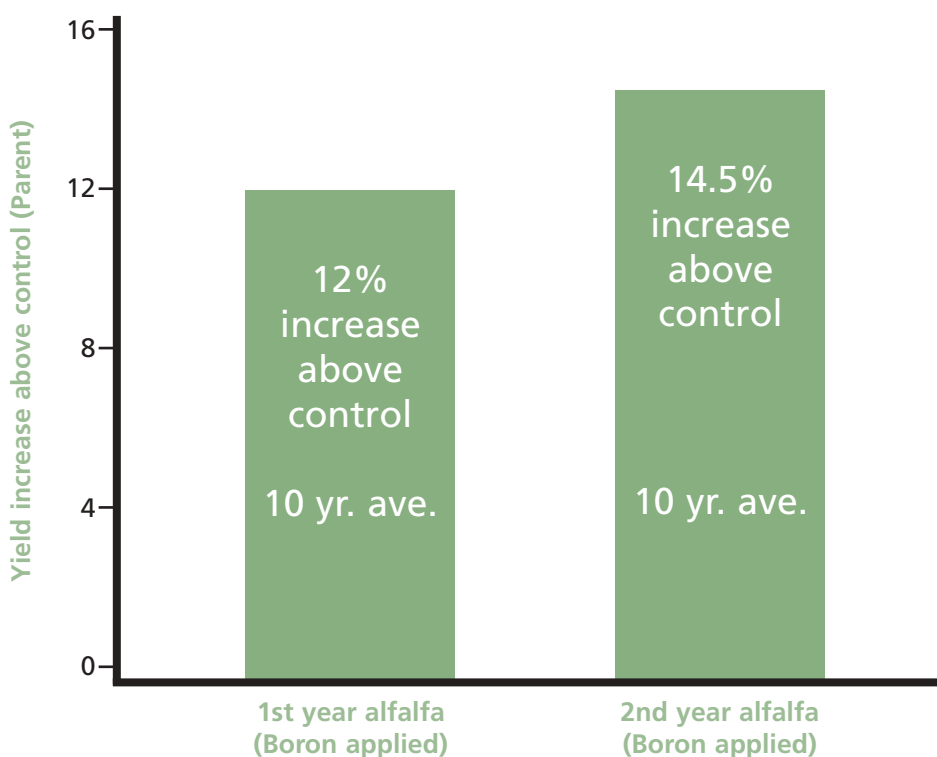


Alfalfa

Boron is an essential nutrient for all plants. Nutrients act together to produce healthy, vigorous alfalfa stands which are better able to maximize yields and withstand crop stresses. Providing alfalfa with adequate boron is necessary for:

- Greener, leafier plants with high protein
- Faster regrowth after each cutting
- Longer stand life
- Improved winter hardiness
- Enhanced root growth
- Better water use efficiency and drought tolerance
- Increased root nodule development for fixing nitrogen
- Thicker stands to suppress weed and grass growth

Boron has been shown to increase yields and improve the quality of a wide variety of crops. Alfalfa responds especially well to boron fertilizers, as shown in the data below:



Meyer, L. and E. Beason. 1972. Kansas Fertility Research Report of Progress. 194. Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The • Boron • Bonus



Alfalfa

How much boron is enough?

- Alfalfa removes higher amounts of boron from the soil each year than any other crop. Most universities recommend applying boron at stand establishment, and annually thereafter.
- Rates of boron fertilization should be based on yield goals along with soil tests and/or plant analyses. The following chart gives general application rate guidelines:

Fertilization of alfalfa				
Recommended lbs. of boron per acre per year				
Potential yield (Tons per acre)		Boron Soil Test Rating		
		Low	Medium	High
1 to 3	Prior to seeding	1	0	0
	Topdress	1	1	0
3 to 6	Prior to seeding	2	1.5	0
	Topdress	2.5	2	1
6 plus	Prior to seeding	3*	2.5	1
	Topdress	4*	3*	1.5

*Split applications may be beneficial. Soils should be retested before repeating.

Timing your boron application

At establishment:

- Boron can be applied and incorporated with other fertilizers and/or chemicals prior to planting in the fall or spring.
- Broadcast applications are more economical with *Granubor*® 15% in dry blends, or *Fertibor*® in suspensions.
- Where leaching or companion crop tolerance are of concern, higher recommended rates of boron should be split, with the majority applied after the first cutting in the establishment year.
- *Never apply boron with the seed at planting.*

Annual topdressing:

- Alfalfa needs a relatively high rate of boron constantly over the entire growing season. Annual boron applications should be applied when other nutrients are topdressed.
- If no other fertilizer is applied due to manuring, boron needs of alfalfa can be met with *Solubor*® or *Solubor*® DF sprayed on the stubble after any cutting, or in any spray operation.*
- Because alfalfa will take up more boron than it needs for a single cutting, split applications of high rates are more economical and efficient.
- Since boron availability is reduced during dry periods, and because adequate boron improves winter hardiness, most growers apply boron after the first cut in the spring and the last cut of summer.

*Foliar sprays should not exceed 0.5 lbs./acre boron per application.

For more information:

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1 (800) 699 9005

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