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Borax, Borates, and Other Boron-Carrying Compounds

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AGRONOMY NOTES

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BORAX, BORATES, AND OTHER BORON-CARRYING COMPOUNDS

Boron is available on the market in a number of different compounds. Since the amount of boron contained in each compound is different, the concentration will determine the rate required per acre. Frequently, all of these boron-containing compounds are erroneously referred to as borax (11.36 percent boron). The following table shows the more common boron compounds on the market along with the borax equivalent and the percentage of elemental boron in each.

<u>Compound</u>	<u>Borax Equivalent</u>	<u>Percentage Elemental Boron</u>
Borax	100	11.36
Fertilizer Borate -46	126	14.3
Fertilizer Borate-65	178	20.2
Solubor	181	20.5

On alfalfa an annual topdressing of 1.5 to 2.0 pounds of elemental boron is recommended. To apply the recommended amount of boron in a straight boron compound, the concentration of boron in the material being applied must be considered.

When boron is added to mixed fertilizers the percentage of elemental boron is shown in the "guaranteed analyses."

Harold Miller

(To simplify information in this publication, trade names of some products are used. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not named.)

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