Borax, Borates, and Other Boron-Carrying Compounds

Harold F. Miller
University of Kentucky

Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/pss_notes

Part of the Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons

Repository Citation
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/pss_notes/157

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Plant and Soil Sciences at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Agronomy Notes by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsvaky.edu.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Borax Equivalent</th>
<th>Percentage Elemental Boron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borax</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer Borate -46</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer Borate-65</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solubor</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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