

What are the best P and K placement options for alfalfa? (A09-blaylock124041-Oral)

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Abstract:

Alfalfa has high P and K requirements relative to many other crops. Phosphorus and potassium requirements are commonly met by periodically broadcasting fertilizer on established stands. Topdressing is convenient and economical, but other methods offer potential to increase yields and profitability. Banding has proven superior to broadcast in many situations for a variety of crops. Surface-broadcast P and K remain near the surface and may be unavailable to plant roots. Banding also reduces soil-nutrient contact and may reduce fixation leaving more nutrient available to the plant. Studies of various banding techniques have documented the advantages and disadvantages of subsurface nutrient placement on established alfalfa. This review paper will examine those studies and discuss P and K placement options on alfalfa.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002

Presentation Time: 7:45 am

Keywords:

alfalfa, phosphorus, potassium, placement