



# Micronutrient **Myth-busters**

## Correcting common misconceptions about micronutrient fertilizer rates

### Myth #1: My soil needs 5 lbs of zinc to adequately feed the crop.

“For years, the common recommendation to farmers has been to apply fairly high rates of micronutrients to deficient soils,” says Mark Goodwin, Director of Research and Development for Wolf Trax®. “That’s because rates were based on traditional granular micronutrient technology, which are inefficiently distributed in the soil.”

Granular micronutrient is typically blended into a fertilizer blend of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), allowing the chunks of micronutrient to be spread across the field along with the NPK fertilizer.



**With Wolf Trax, all fertilizer prills are coated with micronutrients, which means greater distribution in the soil and better root interception overall. Therefore, recommended rates differ significantly from granular micronutrients.**

However, this distribution method is inefficient for a number of reasons. Gary Tuxhorn, Corporate Agronomist with United Suppliers, Inc., a leading agri-retail business, explains that soil tests may tell us to put on anywhere from 2 to 10 lbs of zinc because that’s how

Crop	Yield	Zinc (lbs/acre)		
		Crop need	Typically applied in the past	Percentage of crop need
Corn (grain and stover)	180 bu	0.45	5	1111%
Cotton	2 bales	0.96	5	521%
Oats	140 bu	0.42	5	1190%
Peanuts	4000 lbs	0.25	5	2000%
Soybeans	50 bu	0.05	5	10000%
Wheat	80 bu	0.29	5	1724%

*Inefficient and inconsistent distribution of traditional granular micronutrients through the field lead to higher application rates (2 to 10 lb/acre of zinc sulfate granules) to deliver the required amount (less than 0.5 lb) of zinc.*

much has been needed to get a tiny amount of granular micronutrient that’s been widely spread through the soil to the plant. “It’s important to remember that the plant doesn’t need 5 lbs of zinc even though that’s what the soil test recommendation calls for – in fact, it needs a fraction of that,” says Tuxhorn.

Zinc is critically important to plant health, but plants typically need very little of this nutrient. For example, corn needs less than 0.5 lbs per acre. Soybeans need less than 0.1 lbs per acre (see table).

Wolf Trax DDP® Micronutrients are designed to coat and adhere to each prill of dry N, P or K fertilizer, thereby delivering the micronutrient throughout the soil profile, and right up to the plants’ roots. This, says Tuxhorn, ensures the corn plant finds almost all of the zinc applied. With Wolf Trax, all fertilizer prills are coated with micronutrients, which means greater distribution in the soil and better root interception overall. Therefore, recommended rates differ significantly from granular micronutrients.

“Wolf Trax recommended rates are based on plant needs, not building the soil,” says Goodwin. “By intelligently applying the right

amount of micronutrient in an available form directly to the plant’s roots, we can reduce the amount of micronutrient we’ve applied in the past while still achieving the desired result.”

**Myth Busted! Plants do not require pounds of zinc to reach full yield potential.**

New technological advances, such as Wolf Trax DDP Micronutrient fertilizer coating means that you have the potential to deliver the right amount of micronutrient right to the plant’s roots, in an available form.

Look for more Micro Myth-busting information from Wolf Trax Innovative Micronutrients.



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