



# Micronutrient **Myth-busters**

## Correcting common misconceptions about micronutrient blend consistency

### Myth#3 I can't control blend consistency once it leaves the fertilizer plant.

When blending granular micronutrients in a dry fertilizer blend (N, P, K, urea, etc.), fertilizer plant managers work hard to create even and consistent blends. Whether using a batch, volumetric or tower blending system, blend operators manage rate, length of agitation, and bulk densities of the various components. When the blend flows into the truck, it's an even blend, with all components spread consistently through the load.

Unfortunately, until recently, that's the best the blender could do. What he couldn't control is what happens during the trip from the fertilizer plant to the farmer's field. With traditional granular micronutrients, the blend inevitably becomes inconsistent because they have significantly different densities and particle size than the fertilizer prills they are mixed with (See table below).



On the left, MAP blended with Boron DDP Micronutrient. Each prill of MAP is coated evenly. On the right, granular Boron settles unevenly through the blend as the blend is handled and transported.

miles on both gravel and pavement. Blend analysis showed boron levels to vary by 36% while zinc sulphate varied by 50%. The blend that the blender operator works so hard to achieve may not be the same blend that hits the farmer's field.

What does this mean for the farmer? Inconsistent blends lead to inconsistent application across the field. He will not know where target rates are being achieved and where they're not. Patches of deficiency (or in the case of boron, toxicity) could easily occur.

**Myth Busted! Fertilizer blends coated with DDP Micronutrients maintain blend consistency right to your farmers' fields.**

New technological advances, such as Wolf Trax® DDP Micronutrients, ensure that the high quality, consistent blend you work so hard to achieve can make it to your customers' fields.

Element	Bulk Density Standard (lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> )	Bulk Density Metric (Kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Typical Nitrogen (N)	45 to 59	721 to 944
Typical Phosphorus (P)	58 to 68	928 to 1088
Typical Potassium (K)	65 to 71	1041 to 1137
Typical 15% Boron Granule	29 to 65	465 to 1041
Typical 35% Zinc Granule	80 to 105	1280 to 1680

As Gary Tuxhorn, Agronomy Technical Service Manager at United Suppliers says, "Micronutrient distribution in the field has to be managed. Many micronutrients, like zinc sulphate, are denser than the N, P and K in the blend. High bulk density means they start to fall to the bottom of the load once it gets on the truck to go to the farmer's fields."

In a recent trial, two fertilizer blends of urea and MAP and granular zinc and boron, were sampled from the top, middle and bottom of the load after travelling twelve

**Wolf Trax DDP coats each and every fertilizer prill, for even and consistent blends.**

In comparison, Wolf Trax DDP® Micronutrients coat each and every fertilizer prill, for even and consistent blends. Blend analysis of a fertilizer blend coated with Zinc DDP from the blender, to the truck, to the applicator showed variability of less than 3%.



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