Turf fertilisers - Cost per Hectare

GETTING THE BEST DEAL MEANS COST PER HECTARE NOT COST PER BAG.

Calculating the true cost of turf fertilisers can be confusing when so many variations exist, but getting it right can be a huge benefit in managing your budget. Things to consider;

Analysis;
Higher analyses mean less product needed for application and in turn this often means better value. Beware of low analysis products with high application rates. In certain situations, where sufficient phosphate and potassium exist in soils, nitrogen only applications may be used to stimulate growth and enhance presentation.

Bag size;
Fertilisers can be packed in 25kg, 20kg or even 15 or 10kg bags. A smaller bag may seem cheaper but more of them will be needed to achieve the right result – increasing the cost.

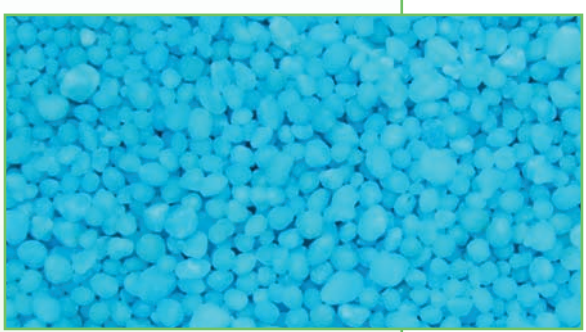
Longevity;
Some products are designed to last for only a short time, maybe a few weeks, but others can feed for up to 6 or 7 months.

Application rate;
The suggested application rate must be sufficient to achieve the desired response. Increasing or decreasing the application rate will have an effect on cost – but also an effect on performance.

If you take these things into consideration, there can be an alarming difference in the real cost of fertiliser application. If we are comparing different products applied at sufficient levels to achieve the desired results – **then the true cost is reflected in the price per hectare.**

How to compare costs

Example – Outfield fertiliser for spring/summer growth.



Product A = **20kg Xtend Granular 46-0-0 (£26.50)**
Product B = **25kg conventional 9-7-7 (£16.00)**
Product C = **25kg Mineral/Organic 16-4-8 (£15.00)**

Step 1: Convert bag price into cost per kg.

A: **£26.50 ÷ 20kg = £1.325 per kg**
B: **£16.00 ÷ 25kg = £0.640 per kg**
C: **£15.00 ÷ 25kg = £0.60 per kg**

Step 2: Multiply by suitable application rate

A: **£1.33 x 150kg/ha (15g/m^2) = £198.75 per hectare. (applies 69kg N/ha)**
B: **£0.64 x 350kg/ha (35g/ m^2) = £224.00 per hectare. (applies 32kg N/ha)**
C: **£0.60 x 350kg/ha (35g/ m^2) = £210.00 per hectare. (applies 56kg N/ha)**

Step 3: Consider longevity, safety and leaching potential

A: **Slow release - lasts for up to 12 weeks, does not require watering in and is resistant to leaching.**
B: **Conventional –lasts for up to 6 weeks, can scorch and is not resistant to leaching.**
C: **Mineral/Organic – lasts 8 – 12 weeks, does not require watering in and is resistant to leaching.**

Conclusion:
In this example, not only would the Xtend Granular 46-0-0 product be least expensive per hectare, (£198 vs £224 and £210) it would also last up to twice as long, be safer to use, and be better for the environment than the 9-7-7.

Example prices for comparison purposes only.