

Nutrient Management Practices

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet

November 2002

Proper nutrient management saves money and maximizes crop production while minimizing pollution caused by runoff of excess fertilizer. Effective nutrient management utilizes systematic soil testing and plant tissue analysis, and provides the landowner with information regarding appropriate timing and application rates. Calibration of fertilizer application equipment also ensures that application rates are cost-effective. Nutrient management generally falls into three classes: 1) BMPs clearly visible and working; 2) No harm is visible, but absence of BMPs leave room for improvement; and, 3) There is clear evidence of pollution.

1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



Analyzing soil and following research based recommendations are important first steps.



Fertilizer should be applied at the optimum time for crop utilization.



Periodically testing crops ensures that they are receiving the nutrients they need.



Incorporating nutrients into the root zone maximizes their efficiency.

Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards



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2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Care must be taken when spraying manure near roadsides.



Failure to test or not following science based recommendations may lead to excessive fertilizer use.

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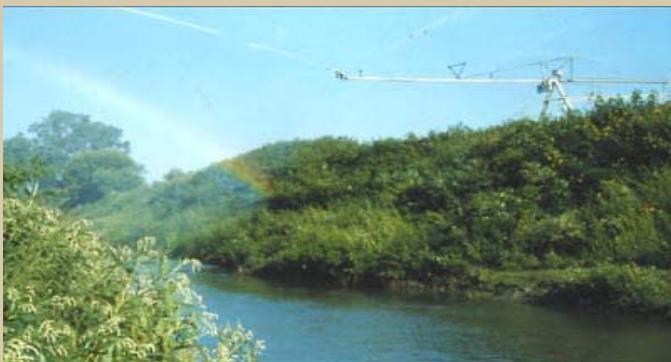
3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE



Nutrients and sediments washing off field following a rain storm.



Lack of vegetative buffer allows nutrients to wash directly off fields and move into streams.



Spraying nutrients into standing water is an obvious case of non-compliance.



Nutrient runoff from surrounding fields lead to this algae bloom.