360 YIELD

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360 SOILSCAN BEST PRACTICES

Build reliable nitrate trends with consistent sampling and sensor care. Test promptly, record sample depth and interpret results in the context of the field.



SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVE ZONES

Sample at least two locations per management zone; use more for variable-rate decisions. Return to consistent locations to track nitrate changes and sample close to the planned application date.

ACCOUNT FOR BANDED N

Banded fertilizer requires sampling across both treated and untreated soil. For a 30-inch section, take cores every 2 inches and blend them into one representative sample. Broadcast applications require less intensive cross-row sampling.

RECORD SAMPLE DEPTH

A 0-12-inch sample is commonly recommended. A separate 12-24-inch sample can show deeper nitrate movement. Keep depths identified and consistent when comparing results.

PREPARE AND TEST PROMPTLY

Break up and mix the soil thoroughly for extraction. Test as soon as possible. If delayed, get the samples on ice or into a freezer promptly.

INTERPRET NITRATE CORRECTLY

The nitrate reading does not include ammonium nitrogen. Account for fertilizer form, timing, weather and remaining ammonium before deciding on additional N. Use the 0-12-inch result in the N Needs Calculator; review deeper results separately.

KEEP SOLUTION AND TIPS FRESH

Replace standard solution when it becomes cloudy from soil washed off the sensors. The FAQ gives an average nitrate-tip shelf life of about one year, or about three months after installation and use.

STORE SENSORS CORRECTLY

For more than 24 hours without use, store the gray nitrate sensor dry in its storage bottle. Keep the red reference-electrode tip immersed in standard solution in its bottle, about three-quarters full. Store the pH sensor similarly wet.

PROTECT DURING STORAGE

Keep the machine and sensors at 60-80°F. Store unopened tips in their original packaging at room temperature. For winter storage, empty the water tank and purge the water line.