

Starter Solutions

ISSUE NO. 2



A publication helping farmers to achieve more yields! • From your friends at: **LFB Solutions, Inc.**

LFB Solutions Should Be Your Starter Fertilizer!

After growing up a farm kid, getting a BS in Agriculture, and working 30 years in fertilizer, I have spent the last 13 years doing research on starter fertilizers.

Why Should You Care?

I think we first need a definition of what a starter fertilizer product is: "A starter fertilizer is some nutrient, or combination of nutrients, placed on or near the seed of a desired plant in order to encourage early growth, and as a result, to increase the final yield." It should be noted that the above definition did not say, "total fertility needs."



In the 13 years of replicated starter fertilizer trials, over many different locations, some formulations and physical placements consistently outperformed others.

- 1) If you are going to place something 2 inches away from the seed, it might as well be liquid 10-34-0. It probably won't pay you to do it, but it is "cheap." There is no point in putting a high priced starter 2 inches away from the seed, because in that placement it probably won't pay, either!
- 2) If fertility levels are medium or above, soil types don't usually matter in the choice of a starter. It may influence how much should be used safely, but not which starter to use.
- 3) When you plant and whether you no-till makes all the difference in which starter will perform the best.
- 4) A "good" seed-placed starter will usually win when compared to a starter placed 2 inches away from the seed, even though they may be the same product.
- 5) Not all seed-placed starters are created equal. Some are just cheap fertilizers fancied up to sell at a high margin. Some seed-placed starters actually fail to influence the yield, except downward.
- 6) The correct formulation usually outperforms anything compared to it. Understand, we are not trying to raise the crop here, we are merely trying to get it off to the best possible start, so that it can take better advantage of the over-all fertility program.

Now What?

At LFB Solutions, Inc., our extensive testing program has shown us that not all seed-placed starters perform equally well. There are differences in performance of \$13-\$20 per acre between some seed-placed starter products, even within the same company's product line.

Because of the nature of our company (**LFB Solutions, Inc.**), it is only possible for us to ship in semi load quantities. If you and a friend or neighbor want to go together on a semi-load, I'll be glad to work with you.

For more information call, or write us at:

LFB Solutions, Inc.
578 N. Union City Rd
Coldwater, Michigan 49036
517-812-2483, 260-312-2918

Thank you,

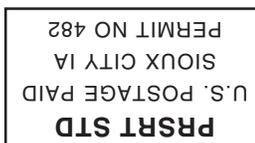


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