

Information Sheet

Optimising Grass growth with sulphur

Results of research by the Institute of grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) concluded that additions of sulphur can give yield responses at firsts , as well as second and third cut.

The work also confirmed that applications of sulphur containing fertilisers increase the use of nitrogen fertiliser.

Just as important in these environmentally conscious days , sulphur has been shown to significantly reduce nitrogen leaching. For example , on a sandy loam the addition of sulphur reduced over winter leaching by 58% in 1997, and a massive 72% in the wet conditions of 1998 bringing the leaching rate in both years to a level well below EC Limits. It also reduced denitrification (the loss of nitrogen to the atmosphere).

In separate experiments by the University of Wales sulphur was found to increase silage digestibility and protein content, whilst work by Teagasc in Ireland has also confirmed that adding sulphur increases yield, protein and dry matter content.

With all this evidence now building it makes sense to check for Sulphur deficiency through leaf tissue analysis. If the analysis shows a Nitrogen Sulphur ratio of 13:1 or more then an application of a sulphur containing fertiliser can bring striking results.