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## 2024 Nutrition Management at a Glance

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## NUTRITION MANAGEMENT 2024 – 2026 AT A GLANCE

Prepared as an addendum to the 2024-2026 Chart Book

UMass Cranberry Station <http://ag.umass.edu/cranberry> 508-295-2212

### REFER TO 2024-2026 CRANBERRY CHART BOOK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulation 330 CMR 31.00 requires growers to follow UMass Extension nutrient management recommendations (the Chart Book) and keep records of fertilizer applications and soil and tissue test results. Having a copy of the Chart Book and the required records satisfies the regulatory requirements - you are not required to have a separate written plan. The Cranberry Station website 'Nutrient Management for Cranberries' Quick Link (<http://ag.umass.edu/cranberry>) includes a plan template and Excel files with sample record keeping formats and nutrient calculators (determine fertilizer rates based on how much nutrient you want to apply). The BOGS system, available from the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, is an online tool designed to plan and keep records that meet regulatory requirements for pesticide and nutrient applications.

**Recommended nitrogen base rate range** reflects varying crop loads: up to 600 bbl/A for the newest hybrids and up to 300 bbl/A for the others. This does not mean that higher yields necessarily would require more N. In fact, for all but the newest cultivars, adding more N than required can result in yield *decline*.

Cultivar group	Base N rate lb/A	Other considerations
Natives: Early Black and Howes	25-40	Reduce to 25-30 for crops less than 200 bbl/A
Older hybrids and large fruit: Ben Lear, Stevens, Grygleski, Pilgrim	35-50	Reduce to 35-40 for crops less than 200 bbl/A
Rutgers and University of Wisconsin cultivars: Crimson Queen, Demoranville, Mullica Queen, HyRed	50-80	Reduce to 50-60 for crops less than 300 bbl/A

Stage/formulation	% of total N for the season
<b>Slow or controlled release</b>	
Pre-roughneck (mid-May)	50-100%*
*if less than 100%, apply remainder at set using fast-acting	
<b>Fast-acting, soluble sources including soil-applied liquids</b>	
<b>All but the newest cultivars</b>	
Roughneck to hook	up to 20%
75% in bloom (early set)	50-60%
75% out of bloom (late set)	30-40%
<b>Rutgers and U-WI cultivars</b>	
Roughneck to hook	up to 20%
First fruit set	30-35%
7 days later	30-35%
7 days later	20-30%

P can be an environmental pollutant. Adverse environmental impacts are reduced by using moderate P rates and by careful attention to harvest flood management.

#### Recommended phosphorus rates for native cultivars and first-generation hybrids.

Very little P is removed from the bog in the harvested crop. For native and first-generation hybrids, there is no evidence that more than 20 lb/A actual P is required for productive cranberries. There is evidence that more P is being removed through harvest in high yielding second-generation hybrids. It is suggested that up to 30 lb P/acre could be adequate. Ongoing research continues to quantify nutrient demands for these varieties.

Production system	Recommended P rate lb/A	as P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> lb/A	Notes
New plantings	up to 30	up to 68	During establishment
Established beds, tissue test >0.16%	no more than 10	no more than 23	
Established beds, tissue test 0.11-0.15% and stable	no more than 15	no more than 34	Trying a lower rate (e.g. 10 lb/A) is encouraged
Established beds, tissue test <0.12% and trending down	up to 20	up to 45	15 lb/A P with testing should suffice
Established beds, tissue test <0.10%	20	45	

#### Recommended potassium rates.

Cranberry sand soils are naturally low in K, leading to an annual requirement for K additions. Supplemental K may be applied as soon as the soil warms in the spring, generally in early May. Otherwise, K is generally added with nitrogen and phosphorus (NPK).

	Recommended K rate lb/A	Other considerations
Soil and tissue tests normal	up to 100	Look for NPK with similar first and third numbers
Soil and tissue tests low	60-100	Consider a supplement like SulPoMag or KMag at 100-150 lb/A or a soil-applied liquid K supplement
Tissue test high	0-60	Use no supplements

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### Calculating Fertilizer N, P, and K Rates -- important for planning

N-P-K numbers on fertilizer labels are percent by weight, and also the amount per 100 lbs of fertilizer.

**Nitrogen (N)** - First number on the bag is percent N

*N example:* You have a 50 pound bag of **18** – 8 – 18

To figure out how much N is in the bag of fertilizer:

1. Multiply the first number by weight of the bag
  - $18 \times 50 \text{ lbs} = 900$
2. Because the number on the bag is a percentage, you then divide by 100 to calculate how much nitrogen you are applying
  - $900/100 = 9 \text{ lbs}$

For every 50 lbs of this fertilizer, you are adding 9 lbs of N.

**\*\*shortcut** - for a 100 pound application - the first number is pounds applied on the bog

**Phosphorus (P)** - Middle number on the bag is percent phosphorus as *phosphate* -  $P_2O_5$

*P example:* You have a 50 pound bag of 12 – **24** – 12

To figure out how much actual P is in the bag of fertilizer:

1. Multiply the second number on the bag by 0.44 (conversion factor)
  - $24 \times 0.44 \text{ (conversion factor)} = 10.56$
2. Multiply this number by weight of the bag
  - $10.56 \times 50 \text{ lbs (weight of the bag)} = 528$
3. Because the number on the bag is a percentage, you then divide by 100 to calculate how much P you are applying
  - $528/100 = 5.28 \text{ lbs}$

For every 50 lbs of this fertilizer, you are adding 5.28 lbs of P.

NOTE: if you want less than 20 lbs actual P per acre on the bog, apply no more than 45 lbs of *phosphate* per acre

**Potassium (K)** - Last number on the bag is percent potassium as *potassium oxide* -  $K_2O$

*K example:* You have a 50 pound bag of 0 – 0 – **22**

To figure out how much actual K is in the bag of fertilizer:

1. Multiply the third number on the bag by 0.83 (conversion factor)
  - $22 \times 0.83 \text{ (conversion factor)} = 18.26$
2. Multiply this number by weight of the bag
  - $18.26 \times 50 \text{ lbs (weight of the bag)} = 913$
3. Because the number on the bag is a percentage, you then divide by 100 to calculate how much K you are applying
  - $913/100 = 9.13 \text{ lbs}$

For every 50 lbs of this fertilizer, you are adding 9.13 lbs of K.