



Triazone, NOT Triazine

By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow

In the last issue of the *GRASS ROOTS*, I attempted to respond to some questions on various aspects of turfgrass management. One question dealt with N-Sure. This is one of what probably are many trade names not in my turf product file. I was led to believe that N-Sure is a triazine product and responded accordingly. The fact of the matter is, N-Sure contains triazone, not triazine.

Triazone and triazine are both organic, slow-release N compounds, but that's where their similarities end. Manufacture of triazone results in a solution containing urea, methylol urea and triazone. The product typically contains 28 percent N and, by varying the amounts of the various components, anywhere between 50 and 70 percent of the N can be in a controlled release form.

Microbial action is responsible for N release from triazone and triazine. As

noted last time, triazine releases virtually no N during the first month after application and then releases N rather slowly over a period of 16 weeks or more. In contrast, N release from triazone begins shortly after application. Depending on environmental conditions, microbial release of triazone N is complete with eight to 12 weeks after application. The faster rate of N release from triazone suggests that when the two products are applied in the same N rate, better turfgrass color can be expected from triazone than from triazine.

In addition to its controlled N release characteristics, triazone solutions have other features appreciated by turfgrass professionals. For one, the product has low burn potential that allows application of N rates as high as 0.5 lb/M virtually anytime during the season. Secondly, N-Sure and other triazone products have good storage properties.

They do not salt out at temperatures as low as 0°F or when stored for a year or more. Finally, as solutions, the triazone products offer the opportunity for one-step fertilization and weed or disease control. Although triazone solutions have pH values of 8.0 or more, they have been shown to be compatible with tri-blends of turfgrass herbicides and with fungicides.

If you're intrigued by N-Sure or any other triazone solution but are hesitant to give it a try, you need to be aware that the product has a history of use on turfgrass in Wisconsin. There are a number of colleagues you can talk to about N-Sure. Just to indicate a few possibilities, the product has been used for one year or more on the Silver Spring, Edgewater, Sentry World, Westmoor and West Bend golf courses.



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