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the possibility of extrapolating the results to a larger volume. To convert PPM to a usable and meaningful expression requires only a simple calculation to obtain a pounds per acre measurement. This calculation is based upon a term called acre furrow slice (AFS), which represents the oven dry weight of the top six inches of an acre plot. It is a constant at 2,000,000 pounds. So, if your test result shows that the sample tested had 20 PPM of phosphorus, you can calculate the pounds of phosphorus per acre by multiplying the PPM by 2. (20 ppm x 2 = 40 lbs./acre). Or, for you math majors:

$$\frac{\text{ppm}}{1{,}000{,}000} = \frac{\text{pounds per acre}}{\text{lbs./acre furrow slice}}$$

$$\frac{20}{1{,}000{,}000} = \frac{X}{2{,}000{,}000 \text{ lbs.}}$$

$$20 \times 2{,}000{,}000 \text{ lbs.} = 1{,}000{,}000X$$

$$\frac{20 \times 2{,}000{,}000 \text{ lbs.}}{1{,}000{,}000} = X$$

$X = 40$ lbs./acre

Either method gets the correct answer.

Most soil test laboratories give results in pounds per acre, but as you can see the conversion is simple (the first way). From there you just go by the recommended pounds per acre for elements for vegetation in your area.

Q: *Why aren't grasses tested on different soils under conditions found in different areas of the states; within 10 miles of Lake Erie the soil conditions change 3 times?*

A: Tersely, the answer is time, money, personnel, and a lack of a need. However, your question is a good one.

But you, as a manager of plant growth, need not be without specific information on growing a particular plant, species, or cultivar in any given area, condition, or region. This specific information is a product of Experience Sharing with other professionals in your locale. Probably the most usable information you will ever get will come from your fellow practitioners who have joined together to form and support a local chapter of some professional organization. Continue to do your own trial and error research as most others are doing and then support a forum to exchange such experiences.