



Using a pH indicator solution can help identify the location of the nitrogen applied in sidedress applications and ensure it is kept clear of the crop roots.

to avoid these issues. Where cotton is grown on hills, much of the broadcast urea ends up in the irrigation furrows and can be subject to losses either by physical granule movement, or by denitrification if furrows remain waterlogged post irrigation.

Topdressing Green Urea NV

Green Urea NV is a urea-based fertiliser treated with an inhibitor which reduces the rate of urea hydrolysis. It is ideal for growers considering topdressing nitrogen this season. Cotton growers can use Green Urea NV to assist in reducing nitrogen losses from volatilisation for up to 14 days before follow-up rain or irrigation occurs.

Water running urea

The high solubility of urea means nitrogen can be accurately applied through irrigation water, provided the flow rate is known and an accurate metering device is used. Urea will not strip out of irrigation water as it moves further from the injection point due to its molecular structure. But water running urea may move nitrate nitrogen to the outside of hills and beds and then towards tail drains. This may result in lower nitrogen levels at the head ditch end of the rows. Urea is generally applied using N-buggies, which can be calibrated to dispense urea into channels at a set rate.

Water running Big N

Big N can be applied in irrigation water, provided the furrow is no longer than 600 metres; the water is moving rapidly; and no more than 100 kg of Big N is applied per megalitre of water. In these situations, losses will be minimised. It should be applied in the irrigation prior to the anticipated nitrogen demand.

Growers should first run the irrigation water for some time before releasing Big N into the irrigation ditch to allow thorough mixing with the irrigation water. Big N should be added during the first quarter of the anticipated watering period to avoid ineffective nitrogen placement and prevent excess volatilisation. We also recommend growers place the injection point at least 100 metres from the first siphon to ensure the product is in solution before hitting the field, and ensure they wear personal protective equipment when they handle Big N in water run situations.

Easy N

Easy N contains 42.5 per cent nitrogen (w/v) in three forms – urea, ammonium and nitrate. It can be applied via foliar applications, side dressing or water running.

Foliar applications using boomsprays should be limited to 20 L/ha due to the potential for leaf damage during high summer temperatures. Apply to actively growing plants that are not stressed due to environmental conditions.

It can be side dressed into the soil where suitable machinery is available or applied through overhead irrigation systems. Droppers can be used to dribble or stream apply Easy N alongside the plant line with follow up irrigation to ensure the fertiliser moves into the root zone for plant uptake.

Easy N can be water run very evenly along most field set ups and furrow lengths because it contains urea, ammonium and nitrate.

For more information on any of these nitrogen options for cotton, see your Incitec Pivot Fertilisers distributor today.