

Post Plant Application Guide

Dramatic increases in potential cotton yields and an emphasis on maximising yields in maize and sorghum are putting a greater focus on post-emergent nitrogen applications, such as water running and sidedressing. BIG N® fertiliser is an ideal choice for giving crops the nitrogen boost they need during the key growth stages.

BIG N fertiliser is compatible with a range of fertiliser applications, giving farmers more choice when it comes to addressing the nitrogen needs of their crops.

This guide shows the benefits of water running and sidedressing BIG N, providing application advice so you can gain the best results from your crop.

Water run

Water running BIG N is easy and convenient. The high nitrogen concentration gives plants the added boost when it is needed during growth periods.

Think convenience

The preparation work and handling involved in water running BIG N is minimal. Nurse tanks are delivered to the paddock. BIG N is bubbled directly into the irrigation ditch, requiring minimal supervision.

Think cost-effective set up

The application equipment required to water run BIG N is simple, reliable and cost effective. The flow meter releases BIG N accurately into the irrigation ditch and is easy to set.

Think minimal labour

Water running BIG N requires minimal labour and supervision. The entire application can be a one man job.

Setting up to water run BIG N

An irrigation metering kit is all that is required to water run BIG N. These are readily available for purchase from your BIG N Business Partner. It is easy to assemble and use, following these simple steps:

1. Connect the hose tail to the back flow check valve.
2. Join the spreader tubes to the hose tail with a length of 3/8" low pressure hose and place in the irrigation water.
3. Select the correct orifice for the desired application rate.
4. Fit the liquid withdrawal hose from the nurse tank to the ACME coupling.
5. Turn on the liquid withdrawal tap on the nurse tank to begin application.



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Water run application

Controlling the rate of application

A nylon disc with 24 different sized orifices on the irrigation metering kit is used to control the rate of BIG N released to the furrow.

Selecting the orifice that will achieve the right application rate is simple, using the BIG N's water run orifice selector spreadsheet, which can be found at www.bign.com.au.

By entering the desired nitrogen application rate, area to be fertilised, water application rate, water flow rate and BIG N tank pressure, the program will determine the orifice required or let you know if the application conditions are outside those recommended for water running BIG N.

Even and effective application

The following guidelines are to help growers achieve an even, effective application when water running BIG N.

- Run irrigation water for some time before releasing BIG N into the irrigation ditch. Add BIG N during the first quarter of the anticipated watering period.
- Do not apply more than 100 kg of BIG N per megalitre of water.
- Do not water run BIG N in fields longer than 600 metres.
- Ensure there is rapid water movement when water running BIG N.
- Ideally, BIG N should be water run one irrigation before the crop requires nitrogen. Between irrigations, most of the ammonia is converted to nitrate, which is then moved into the root zone with the next irrigation.
- Place the injection point at least 100 metres from the first syphon.



Wee Waa cotton producer, Steven Parish, says BIG N delivers a cost-effective and easy application of nitrogen.

As a long time user of BIG N, Wee Waa cotton producer Steven Parish knows the advantages of using BIG N.

Depending on the season, Steven applies BIG N pre-plant or as a sidedress using a Raven applicator. He also water runs BIG N to top up nitrogen during irrigation.

Producing cotton at his 1000 hectare farm, 15 km west of Wee Waa, Steven says BIG N is a cost-effective way of supplying nitrogen to his crop.

"I use BIG N because of its ease of transfer and application," Steven said.

"BIG N is delivered on farm in nurse tanks, making application easy and time efficient."



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Sidedress

BIG N can be sidedressed to supply nitrogen to cotton and a range of summer crops efficiently and effectively. BIG N is injected directly into the soil in sidedress applications, where and when plants need it.

Think precision farming

Sidedressing BIG N allows growers to apply fertiliser evenly along the row, irrespective of row length and gradient.

Think flexible

BIG N can be sidedressed when crops most need nitrogen, including prior to irrigation.

Think efficient

Because it contains a higher concentration of nitrogen than other nitrogen fertilisers, BIG N can be applied quickly, with fewer stops for refilling so grain growers spent less time refilling and more time fertilising.

Think great service and back up

Growers can rely on technical support and back-up during their fertilising and sowing operations.

Accredited service providers calibrate and safety check application equipment before the application begins, for peace of mind.

Think no wastage

Growers need only pay for the BIG N they require for their crops. BIG N is delivered direct to growers and any unused quantities in the nurse tanks are returned once the job is finished.

BIG N is delivered direct to the paddock, further reducing transport and handling for growers. There's no need for tanks or silos to store the fertiliser in advance or to hold unused fertiliser during the year.



Side dressing BIG N

Adapting your rig for sidedress is easy and can be done in no time at all. BIG N is most commonly applied using a crescent knife and Alabama sweep system. BIG N is plumbed at the rear of the knife to provide protection from wear and breakage. The sweep pushes the soil forward to seal BIG N in the soil.

Trials have shown BIG N can be applied at volumes of up to 200 kg/ha. However, care should also be taken at high rates of application (more than 80 kg/ha nitrogen) so that plant tissue is not damaged by the ammonia vapour, which may evolve in cloddy soils.

Where this is suspected, consider using Coldflo™ technology, where most of the ammonia is applied in a super cooled liquid form. Further, ensure that soil closure behind the applicator tine is adequate.

BIG N can be applied at varying crop growth stages, depending on the type of crop and its uptake.

It is best applied at least 20 centimetres from the crop's plant line so the application machinery does not damage the roots of the crop.

Speak to your local BIG N Business Partner about the recommended application rates of BIG N for your crop.

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For more information on water running or sidedressing BIG N, including tips on controlling the rate of application and guidelines on achieving an even and effective application, contact your local BIG N Business Partner.

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