

# MELTING FERTILIZER?

## What Lawn Care Services Need To Know

As a lawn care provider using fertilizers for commercial distribution or application, you may “melt” fertilizer – that is, dissolve it in water or mix it with other ingredients. If you do, you may need to meet some additional state requirements for licensing and storage beyond those attached to your current business license. These requirements do not apply to farmers or homeowners melting fertilizers for use on their own property.

- ✓ **You need a fertilizer license if:**
  - You mix different fertilizer ingredients together.
  - You mix dry or liquid fertilizer into water or any other material to achieve a certain grade, even though the label does not direct you to do this.

- ✓ **You need a non-agricultural or special-use permit if:**
  - You distribute/apply melted fertilizer that has nitrogen, phosphorus and potash totaling less than 24 percent after mixing.

- ✓ **You do not need a fertilizer license or permit if:**
  - You mix fertilizer according to label directions to create the final grade identified on the packing.

### Licensing Questions?

(608) 224-4541

DATGPFert@wi.gov

*See reverse for storage and handling*



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Agricultural Resource Management, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718

[datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov)

✓ **You need a mix/load pad if:**

- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer with water in a non-mobile container larger than 55-gallons **and**
- You transfer it to another storage container or to a mobile container, such as an application truck.
- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer directly into a mobile container that is larger than 55 gallons and stays parked for more than 7 days.
- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer directly into a mobile container larger than 55 gallons, and there is no other container available at the facility that is at least as large as the mobile container

✓ **You need a secondary containment structure to hold containers and capture spills, if:**

- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer in a non-mobile container that is 55 gallons or larger.
- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer directly into a mobile container that stays parked for more than 7 days.

**MIXING IN MOBILE TANK  
LARGER THAN 55 GALLONS  
DOES NOT REQUIRE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT OR  
MIX/LOAD PAD UNLESS PARKED FOR MORE THAN  
7 DAYS**



✓ **You need to meet Wisconsin concrete design standards if:**

- You are required to build a mix/load pad or a containment structure.

✓ **You need a discharge response plan if:**

- You mix dry or liquid fertilizer with water in any container larger than 55-gallons.

**Storage Questions?**

**(608) 224-4518**

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*See reverse for licensing and permits*

**MIXING IN FIXED TANK  
LARGER THAN 55  
GALLONS REQUIRES  
SECONDARY CONTAINMENT  
FOR STORAGE, AND MIX/  
LOAD PAD FOR TRANSFER TO  
APPLICATION EQUIPMENT**

