



Media release

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Put aerial top dressing up the priority list

Aerial top dressing company Super Air is advising farmers to take advantage of the settled weather and organise their yearly phosphate fertiliser application now.

The good weather and ideal grass growing conditions that farmers up and down the country have experienced in recent months mean that fertiliser application is probably not a top priority.

However, leaving the organisation of this until later in the year can result in unexpected delays. There is often not the same availability of pilots and aircraft to do the job, and as the weather becomes unsettled, schedules can be impacted.

Agronomic Specialist, Warwick Catto says early aerial top dressing makes good business sense and also benefits the environment.

“Undertaking aerial top dressing in good weather ensures that nutrients will be absorbed into the soil before the soil gets too wet. This reduces the risk of phosphate loss from run-off, as does having a good pasture cover. Retaining as much phosphate in the paddock makes good economic sense, and is environmentally friendly as well.

“Some farmers are under the mistaken impression that if they apply fertiliser now they will not get the same benefits as a later application. The truth is quite the reverse. By applying phosphate early you ensure the nutrients are there when plant growth needs it and the risks of run-off losses are low.”

Super Air Commercial Manager Graeme Martin says, “Come April and May, the weather will start to change for the worse and a number of farmers will wish they had acted sooner in terms of aerial top dressing. We know from past experience that suddenly every farmer in the district wants his or her farm dressed and there aren’t the aircraft or pilots to do the job. Getting the job done now gets it out of the way, and ensures there is no stress later in the season.”

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