

Grade Statements Policy

The grade for a commercial fertilizer is the percentage of Total Nitrogen-Available Phosphate-Soluble Potash (N-P-K) that is guaranteed to be in the product. In order to comply with Washington State law (chapter 15.54 RCW) and promote labels that would be accepted in all states, WSDA will no longer allow labels and labeling that have extensions on the grade statement. These extensions were normally for secondary or micronutrients and added to the end of the grade with "+", such as in "Blue Bird Lawn Food 10-0-6+3Fe". The secondary or micronutrient content may still be a part of the product/brand name but not the grade. WSDA prefers the additional nutrients to be associated with the product/brand name instead of the grade and the grade to be on a separate line. For products where the grade was the product name (21-0-0+24S), WSDA recommends that you move the "+24S" to the next line and replace the "+" with the word "plus", "with", or "including". It would now read as:

21-0-0
with 24% Sulfur

Example grade statements with product/brand names are shown in the table below.

Acceptable Grade Statements with product/brand name	NOT Acceptable Grade Statements with product/brand name
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4-3
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 with 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4-3S
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S
*Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% S 5-4-4	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3% S
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 with 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3% Sulfur
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 including 3% Sulfur	Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+ Sulfur 3%
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 plus 3% Sulfur	
Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4 plus 3% S	<i>*Format preferred by WSDA</i>

WSDA realizes this may be a burden on industry, so we are implementing the following phase out period.

- **January 1, 2016** all new fertilizer registrations and all revised labels must only have N-P-K (if required) as the grade statement.
- **July 1, 2017** all labels shall have the new format of only N-P-K as the grade statement.
- When submitting revised labels, WSDA will not consider it a new product (and therefore not subject to new registration fees) if the only thing changing about the product name is the adherence to the new format.
 - *Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S* to *Blue Bird Super Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4*
 - is **NOT** a new product
 - *Blue Bird Super Fertilizer 5-4-4+3S* to *Blue Bird Excellent Fertilizer with 3% Sulfur 5-4-4*
 - **IS** a new product