



factsheet



frequently asked questions

Here we have aimed to answer our most frequently asked questions about nutri-bio. Have a read and you may be surprised at some of the answers.

What are Biosolids?

Biosolids are a by-product of sewage treatment. All products are treated under the guidance of strict regulations and closely monitored before the product is sold.

What are the costs to me?

The farmer pays for the nutri-bio product and service by the delivered tonne. The price includes Soil Indices, delivery, spreading and nutrient management planning. The usual price is £1.50 per tonne, but this may depend on the haulage distances.

Will the application increase my yields and improve organic matter?

The use of nutri-bio has been shown to significantly improve yields in many cases. This is due to a number of factors, including the slow release of nutrients (N, P, SO₃, MgO), and the large supply of organic matter giving an overall soil conditioning effect.

Can I store on set-aside?

You may store on set-aside, but you cannot claim for this area on your IACs form. (Please refer to the set-aside fact sheet on www.nutri-bio.co.uk)

Where do I stand with Crop Assurance Schemes and applications of nutri-bio?

This is not commonly an issue but there may be company specific protocols that present concern at a local level, particularly if not all information is at hand. If there is a particular position statement or mention about biosolids, then please contact us for either further information, or we can liaise directly with the relevant company to help address any concerns.

What about the limed product, will it replace my requirement for lime application?

The limed product has a typical neutralizing value of 3 - 4%.

Does the application of nutri-bio eliminate certain fertiliser inputs?

Nutri-bio may remove all your phosphate inputs, but is unlikely to eliminate all fertiliser inputs. In particular, it contains trace amounts of Potash, but can contain significant levels of Sulphur and maintenance levels of Magnesium.

Can I still apply bagged fertiliser?

You should top-up your fertiliser needs with bagged fertiliser where required typically further Nitrogen and any Potash needs. However, any applications of fertiliser must follow relevant guidelines (e.g. NVZ's) and take into account soil analysis, crop requirements and good advice.

What is the recommended time interval between applications?

You may re-apply nutri-bio 366 days after the previous application. To provide a simple and effective operation on your farm, we recommend rotating its use around the farm e.g. 1 in 3 or 4 years, usually in front of one crop to help with spreading efficiencies for our customers.



factsheet



frequently asked questions

Will spreading increase compaction and thereby affect soil structure?

Like many operations, if carried out at the wrong time and in the wrong conditions, it will lead to compaction. Obviously, if there are any specific operational requests, then in the majority of cases these are usually always accommodated.

Why does cake have to be stored on the field throughout the winter before the land is ready to be spread?

As you can imagine, Biosolids are produced all year round and consequently stockpiled in the same vein. This has two benefits;

1) It minimises what would be a very high number of delivery movements at harvest.

2) Ensures product is delivered to allow for an efficient spreading operation and satisfied customers.

What about heavy metals?

This concern stems from the days of heavy industry and pre-regulation. Metal discharges into the sewerage system are strictly controlled by 'Trade Effluent Inspectors'. Consequently, the 'Sludge Use (in Agriculture) Regulations' ensures levels are tightly controlled to ensure safety in the food chain. It is important to note that the levels of heavy metals (also known as 'Potentially Toxic Elements') have fallen significantly in the last 20 years. (Please refer to the Heavy Metals fact sheet on www.nutri-bio.co.uk)

What about odour and my neighbours?

We will take every care when spreading, paying particular attention to the local environment, and wind direction. During the operation, if you receive any questions from your neighbours, we are happy to discuss our operation with them, or alternatively, please feel free to give them a copy of our Fact Sheet titled 'Biosolids Recycling to Agriculture', which has been specially aimed at the general public. This can be printed off from www.nutri-bio.co.uk.

What about pathogens in the material?

The final product has to meet specific guidelines for treatment as highlighted in the Safe Sludge Matrix. This is designed to a high level of safety in order to protect the food chain. The level for a 'treated' standard has to ensure a 99% pathogen kill.

What are the benefits of using nutri-bio?

The benefits are numerous, typically with significant savings on fertiliser inputs. The nutrient value for one tonne of 'nutri-bio' (equivalent to artificial fertiliser values) can be anything in the range of £5.00 - £11.00/tonne. In summary, some of the key benefits are detailed below:

- Organic Matter
- Reduced fertiliser inputs
- Likely to improve yields
- Soil Indices
- Delivery and spreading included
- Nutrient Management Planning

If you would like further information or a visit from one of our farm sales advisors, please do not hesitate to contact us.

nutri-bio
Milton House
Cambridge STW
Cowley Road
Cambridge
CB4 0AP

nutri-bio@anglianwater.co.uk

Tel. (01223) 542889
 Fax. (01223) 542814

