

Introduction.

An Earthway Ev-N-Spred 3100 hand-held spreader was evaluated at Aldhams Farm Research Centre to determine the correct setting for the application of Merit Turf granules @ 3 g / m².

Method.

A dynamic calibration was carried out to ascertain the swath width and application rate achieved when the spreader was operated:

- At approximately 1 handle-turn / second
- At a walking speed of approximately 1m / sec.
- With the spinning disc approximately 1m from the ground.

Calibration was carried out with the 2 outer feed apertures fully closed (see figure 1), leaving only the centre aperture to be opened / closed by the rate adjustment/on/off lever.

Six 0.25m² trays were placed on the ground across the swath width (3 either side of the operator, approximately 1m apart) to catch the granules, which were weighed after 5 passes of the spreader.

Results.

An approximate swath-width of 2m and an application rate of 3g /m² was achieved using a setting of 7 on the application scale, with the leading edge of the on / off lever lined-up to the appropriate graduation (see figure 2).

Application rate & swath-width can vary significantly according to walking speed and cranking-handle / disc speed.

Figure 1, outer feed apertures fully closed.



Figure 2, positioning of on / off lever for setting 7.

