

THE BRITISH SURVEY OF

Fertiliser Practice

FERTILISER USE ON FARM CROPS
FOR CROP YEAR 2025



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These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in September 2013. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality, and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and should be labelled 'accredited official statistics'.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards (see contact details below). Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

Since the last review of these statistics by OSR, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Improvements to the sample selection to optimise coverage for key survey data items.
- Improvements to the wording of questions in light of feedback from interviewers.
- Flexible use of the survey platform to collect additional data to meet needs of data users (the modular questions).
- Changes to improve the accessibility of the report and accompanying dataset.

Limited extracts from this publication may be reproduced provided that the source is acknowledged. Further statistical analyses of the survey results are also available. For details and other enquiries please contact:

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Results from the British Survey of Fertiliser Practice are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fertiliser-usage>

FOREWORD

The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice (BSFP) provides information on fertiliser and manure use on the major crops and grass grown in mainland Britain.

The 2025 Survey was funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Scottish Government. The Survey has the full support of the Farmers' Unions in England, Scotland, and Wales.

The Survey is carried out annually and is based upon returns from a sample of farms. In 2025, the Survey was co-ordinated by Kynetec, who were responsible for the survey design, data collection, statistical analysis, and quality control monitoring.

Data uses

The information in this publication is widely used by the UK government, international organisations, industry, and researchers. It contains data on trends in usage and application rates of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, sulphur, organic manures, and lime on agricultural crops and grassland in Great Britain.

The Survey data provide important evidence to assess greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. These aid in informing the ammonia and greenhouse gas inventories and the development of possible mitigation measures. They are also used for developing and assessing the impact of policy on water quality and the environment. The data have additionally been used for indicators on nutrient balances, other indicators relating to environmental impacts and other cross cutting work, looking at links between fertiliser use, productivity (benchmarking) and economic performance. Industry and government use the data to monitor best practice.

Information on all of these topics is available from the [GOV.UK website](#), with publications on [greenhouse gas emissions](#), [agriculture and climate change](#), [NVZs](#) and [soil nutrient balances](#) of particular relevance.

Other information

Defra also run other surveys which may be of relevance to fertiliser use and related practices through its [Farm Practices Survey for England](#), which is available on the Defra website.

The following shorthand has been used in many of the data tables in this report, in accordance with best practice from the Office of National Statistics:

- The shorthand [c] is used where a data point, if displayed, might disclose confidential information. Data based on responses from fewer than five fields have been suppressed.
- The shorthand [x] is used where data are **not available**. In most cases this is where some data displayed in a table were not collected in every year of the survey.
- The shorthand [z] is used where data are **not applicable**.
- The shorthand [p] is used where data are **provisional**.

Data revisions

See Appendix 3 AA3.2.6 for details of revisions made in this edition.

July 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The sponsors gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of all farmers taking part in the 2025 British Survey of Fertiliser Practice.

We wish to thank all those involved for their assistance and support in the design, conduct and analysis of the Survey.

The agronomic interpretation of the Survey results benefited from advice from Chris Dawson (Chris Dawson and Associates), agronomic consultant to the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice (BSFP) is an annual, nationally representative interview survey based on the selection of a random stratified sample of farms from mainland Britain. The main purpose of the Survey is to estimate average application rates of nitrogen, phosphate and potash used for agricultural crops and grassland. The data provide important evidence to assess greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and for developing possible mitigation measures. Information is also collected on applications of sulphur fertilisers, organic manures, and lime. The main findings from the 2025 Survey on the use of the nutrients nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and sulphur in Great Britain are summarised below (Table ES1).

Table ES1 Nutrient dressing cover, current and five-year mean overall application rates for all crops and grass, Great Britain 2024 vs 2025

	All crops			All grass			All crops and grass		
	2024	2025	+/- 24/25	2024	2025	+/- 24/25	2024	2025	+/- 24/25
Total Nitrogen - N									
Overall application rate (kg/ha)	121	127	6	34	42	8	73	79	6
Five-year mean overall application rate, (kg/ha)	123	124	1	42	40	-2	78	77	-1
Crop area receiving dressing	87%	88%	1pp	42%	48%	6pp	62%	65%	3pp
Average field rate (kg/ha)	139	145	6	82	87	5	118	121	3
Total Phosphate - P₂O₅									
Overall application rate (kg/ha)	17	16	-1	4	5	1	10	10	0
Five-year mean overall application rate, (kg/ha)	19	18	-1	5	5	0	12	11	-1
Crop area receiving dressing	35%	31%	-4pp	21%	24%	3pp	27%	27%	0pp
Average field rate (kg/ha)	49	52	3	19	20	1	36	36	0
Total Potash - K₂O									
Overall application rate (kg/ha)	22	22	0	6	8	2	13	14	1
Five-year mean overall application rate, (kg/ha)	25	24	-1	8	7	-1	16	15	-1
Crop area receiving dressing	38%	35%	-3pp	22%	26%	4pp	29%	30%	1pp
Average field rate (kg/ha)	60	63	3	28	30	2	46	47	1
Total Sulphur - SO₃									
Overall application rate (kg/ha)	29	31	2	4	6	2	15	17	2
Five-year mean overall application rate, (kg/ha)	29	29	0	4	5	1	15	15	0
Crop area receiving dressing	57%	60%	3pp	13%	15%	2pp	32%	34%	2pp
Average field rate (kg/ha)	51	52	1	34	37	3	47	48	1

Note: pp denotes 'percentage point'. Five-year mean overall application rate, (kg/ha) covers 2020-2024 for 2024 and 2021-2025 for 2025.

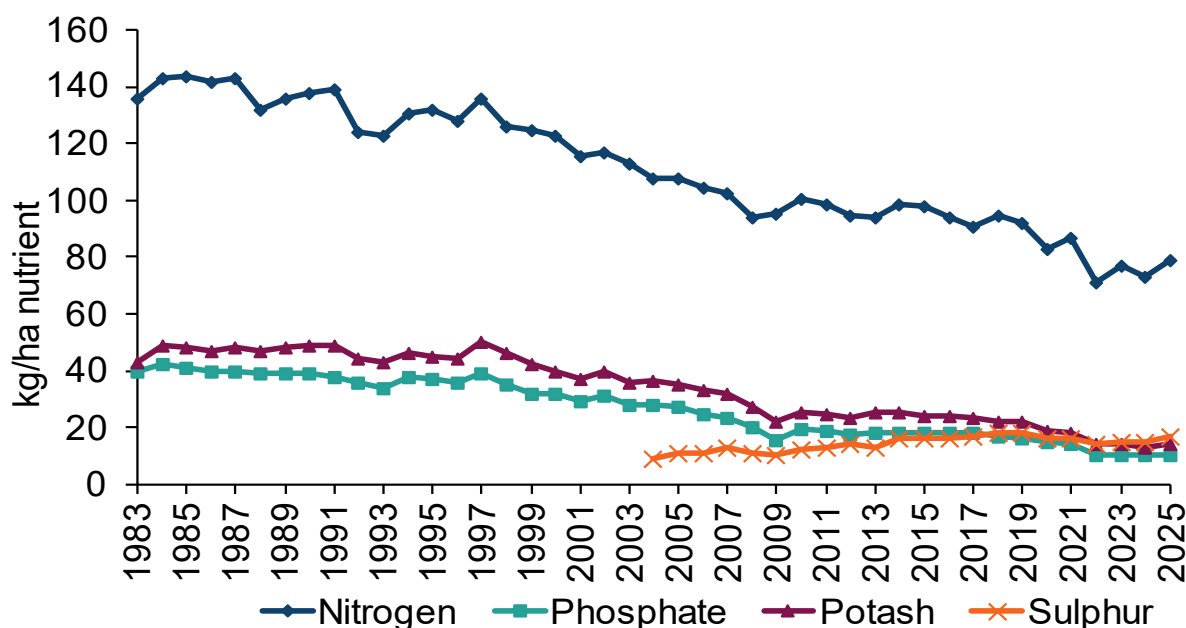
The survey year (which is the same as the crop year) ran from autumn 2024 to autumn 2025, corresponding to the 2025 crop year and the 2025 harvest.

Cropping patterns can influence fertiliser rates and dressing covers observed. In 2025 there was a 1% reduction in the area of crops planted. In addition, 32% of cropping farms, who represent 43% of cropping area, were reported to be growing cover crops. The area sown to cereals was largely consistent with 2024, albeit with an 9% increase in the wheat area and an 11% decrease in the spring barley area. Oilseed rape sown area continued to decline. When comparing to 2020 there was a 5% reduction in the area sown to crops and no change in the area of grass. The weather, which can impact cropping patterns, is described for the 2025 crop year in Appendix 3.

Key findings: Executive Summary

In 2025, average field rates for nitrogen increased on both the crops and grass categories from 2024, having recovered from the low levels observed in 2022. The 2022 levels were thought to be attributable largely to price increases following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Average field rates and dressing cover percentages for phosphate, potash and sulphur were subject to small changes on both crops and grass. Winter-sown crops and grass both noted a small decrease in the number of total applications of fertilisers. Specific applications of nitrogen in 2025 for grass also showed a small decrease, although a slight increase was recorded in winter-sown crops over the same period.

Figure ES1 Overall application rate (kg/ha) of major nutrients on all crops and grass, Great Britain 1983 – 2025



Note: overall application rates for sulphur are not available prior to 2004.

Nitrogen: Executive Summary

- Nitrogen usually has a large immediate effect on crop growth, yield and quality. Most agricultural soils in Great Britain contain too little naturally occurring plant-available nitrogen to meet the needs of a crop, so supplementary nitrogen applications must be made each year.
- The 6 kg/ha increase in total nitrogen use on all crops and grassland in 2025 resulted from a 6 kg/ha increase in the overall application rate on crops to 127 kg/ha and a 8 kg/ha increase on grass to 42 kg/ha.

- Mineral fertiliser nitrogen levels applied to grassland have been consistently lower than on crops. Overall application rates of nitrogen on crops remained relatively constant for several decades before lower levels observed in recent years. Overall application rates on grass declined significantly from 2000-09 then remained steady until much lower levels were observed. The decline in cattle numbers, due to a lessening of stocking density, is thought to have contributed to this reduction in the nitrogen rate on grassland, possibly in conjunction with some improvement in manure use efficiency. The 2025 overall nitrogen rate on grassland is 8 kg/ha higher than that reported in 2022 and 2024, which was 34 kg/ha, the lowest ever recorded by this survey. Please refer to table AA1.1
- In 2025 the overall application rates of total nitrogen increased on all the major crops except potatoes. Average field rates changed in the 2-7 kg/ha range for the major arable crops except sugar beet, which increased 14 kg/ha from 2024 and potatoes, which decreased 13 kg/ha over the same period. Please refer to tables A1.3a and A1.3b.

Phosphate and potash: Executive Summary

- Phosphate and potash are applied in fertilisers and manures, particularly to replace the quantities removed in harvested crops. Most British soils can hold large quantities of these nutrients for crop uptake over several years. Consequently, the timing of maintenance application tends to be less time critical compared to nitrogen or sulphur.
- Overall application rates of phosphate and potash applied to crops are normally about three times those used on grassland. However, farmyard manures are applied to a larger proportion of sown grassland areas (47% dressing cover for grass <5 years old, 35% for grass of 5 years or more) than sown crop areas (29% dressing cover). Grazed grassland also receives manure as it is grazed. Please refer to Appendix 2, table GB1.1.
- Overall phosphate application rates on crops declined gradually between 1984 and 1996. Thereafter the decline in rates became more marked until 2009, after which there was some recovery and relative stability until 2018, when a 3 kg/ha decrease to 27 kg/ha was recorded. Overall phosphate rates on crops have declined every year since to a figure of 16 kg/ha in 2025. The overall application rate of phosphate on grassland was highest in 1983, at 28 kg/ha, and remained relatively stable between 1984 and 1998. Overall application rates declined more rapidly between 1999 and 2009, but then remained relatively stable, with a further, sizeable drop in 2022 to 4 kg/ha. This rate was 5 kg/ha in 2025. Please refer to table AA1.3.
- Overall potash application rates on crops declined slightly between 1983 and 1997, with the rates in the 60-68 kg/ha range. Like phosphate, overall application rates reduced at a greater rate after this time, dropping to 33 kg/ha in 2009 when fertiliser prices were high. Between 2014 and 2018 overall potash application rates were reasonably stable in the range 35-40 kg/ha, but have since declined again, with a further fall in 2024 of 1 kg/ha to 22 kg/ha. This rate was unchanged in 2025. Please refer to table AA1.4.
- Whilst the pattern of use of potash on grassland has been more variable, this also showed a net decline between 1983 and 2008, following relative stability in the mid-late 1980s. Since 2009, overall potash rates fluctuated between 11 and 14 kg/ha, before dropping to 6 kg/ha in 2022. In 2023 and 2024 the overall potash rate on grass was unchanged at 6 kg/ha, but the rate increased to 8 kg/ha in 2025. Please refer to table AA1.4.
- It is of note that in Scotland, the phosphate and potash application rates on cropped land have largely been maintained, relative to the decline seen in England & Wales. Although there has been a reduction in dressing covers and overall application rates since 2004, they were relatively stable again on cropping by 2010. However, between 2018 and 2022 both phosphate and potash application rates declined, before stabilising somewhat

2023. In 2025, the overall phosphate rate on crops decreased slightly in Scotland to 42 kg/ha and potash was unchanged at 56 kg/ha. Please refer to tables AA1.3 and AA1.4.

Sulphur: Executive Summary

- Sulphur is an essential plant nutrient and is a component of most proteins as well as activating certain enzyme systems. In the past, sulphur demand was satisfied through atmospheric deposition, but this contribution is now hardly significant. Therefore, there is a need for sulphur application to crops and grass, with crops such as oilseed rape being particularly sensitive to sulphur deficiency. Elemental sulphur can also be used as a soil acidifier for potatoes which can offer some protection against common scab (*Streptomyces scabiei*) although sulphur as a nutrient is usually applied in the sulphate form.
- The Survey has collected detailed information on sulphur (SO₃) fertiliser use since 1993, when only 3-6% of the cereal crop areas and 8% of the oilseed rape area received a sulphur application. By 1997, these proportions had increased markedly to 13-14% for cereals and 30% for oilseed rape. Dressing covers for sulphur generally remained static until 2002, and then increased steadily to 2007. Dressing covers reduced in 2008 and 2009 for all cereals except winter barley, before continuing to increase. Since 2016, sulphur dressing covers have been relatively stable, around the 50-70% range for cereals, and 70-80% for oilseed rape. In 2025, sulphur dressing covers in cereals were in the 58-73% range, similar to 2024. Please refer to table A1.3c and AA1.6d.
- The 75% dressing cover for winter oilseed rape was 4 percentage points higher than observed in 2024 and is below the five-year average of 77%. Please refer to table A1.3c.
- In 2025, 34% of all crops and grass received a dressing of sulphur; this figure was 60% for crops. On crops the overall application rate for sulphur was 31 kg/ha, above the five-year average for 2021-2025 of 29 kg/ha. Applications on grass increased in 2025 by 2 kg/ha and dressing cover increased by 2 percentage points to 15% of grass receiving a sulphur dressing in 2025. Please refer to tables AA1.5 and AA1.6d.

Organic manures: Executive Summary

- Historically, the Survey has focused on the application of manufactured fertilisers although in recent years (since 2007) it has also collected information on the use of organic manures. The nutrient levels in organic manures vary according to the type of manure but provide a valuable recycled source of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur. Where organic manures are used, applications of manufactured fertiliser can usually be reduced.
- In 2025, around 64% of farms used organic manures on at least one field on the farm. Cattle manure from beef and dairy farms is by far the largest volume of manure type generated in Great Britain. In 2025, 61% of cattle manure and 91% of cattle slurry applications were made to grassland, reflecting the practice of utilising the manure on the farm on which it was produced. Please refer to table B1.1a and B2.3a.
- Fields of winter-sown crops mainly receive a manure dressing in August and September, prior to drilling, whereas spring-sown and grass fields are dressed predominantly in spring and summer.

SECTION A

COMMENTARY ON FERTILISER USE IN GREAT BRITAIN

This commentary refers to rates of application in mainland Britain of fertilisers containing nitrogen (N), phosphate (P_2O_5), potash (K_2O) and sulphur (SO_3) on crops and grassland (excluding rough grazing). Section A1 of the report covers the five-year period 2021-25. Comments on longer term trends are made in Section A2.

The estimates of overall application rates from the Survey relate to usage on farms during the 2025 growing season; they form a basis for estimating quantities of fertiliser used in Great Britain. The overall application rate considers both the average field rate and the proportion of the crop area treated, giving an overview of the crop as a whole. The estimates of average field rates provide a better indication than overall application rates of actual usage levels and also of any annual variation in fertiliser practice on farms. The definitions of the terms used are set out below.

Definitions:

Average field rate = fertiliser nutrient application rate over the sown area that received some dressing of that nutrient (kg/ha)

Dressing cover = proportion of the sown area that has received any application of the nutrient or a manure (%)

Overall application rate = fertiliser nutrient application rate over the sown area of all fields, irrespective of whether they received dressing of that nutrient or not (kg/ha).

Crop year = the crop year covers the period from the autumn of the preceding year to the autumn of the crop year i.e. the 2025 crop year ran from autumn 2024 to autumn 2025.

For full details on definitions used throughout this report, along with details on the History of the report, Survey methodology and Background information, please refer to Appendix 3.

The statistics on the pattern of fertiliser practice reported for Great Britain largely reflect practices in England & Wales due to its greater area of total crops and grassland: about 8.7 million hectares in England & Wales and about 1.9 million hectares in Scotland. In what is otherwise a commentary on Britain as a whole, remarks on the separate regions are only made to highlight particular trends of interest. Readers interested in more detailed recent trends for individual crops in England & Wales or in Scotland can refer to tables presented in Appendix 3.

A summary of data from earlier years is available in Chalmers 2001² and historic data for the key data series are also available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fertiliser-usage>.

Shorthand: The following shorthand has been used in many of the data tables in this report, in accordance with best practice from the Office of National Statistics:

- The shorthand [c] is used where a data point, if displayed, might disclose confidential information and data based on responses from fewer than five fields have been **suppressed**.
- The shorthand [x] is used where data are **not available**. In most cases this is where some data displayed in a table were not collected in every year of the survey.
- The shorthand [z] is used where data are **not applicable**.
- The shorthand [p] is used where data are **provisional**.

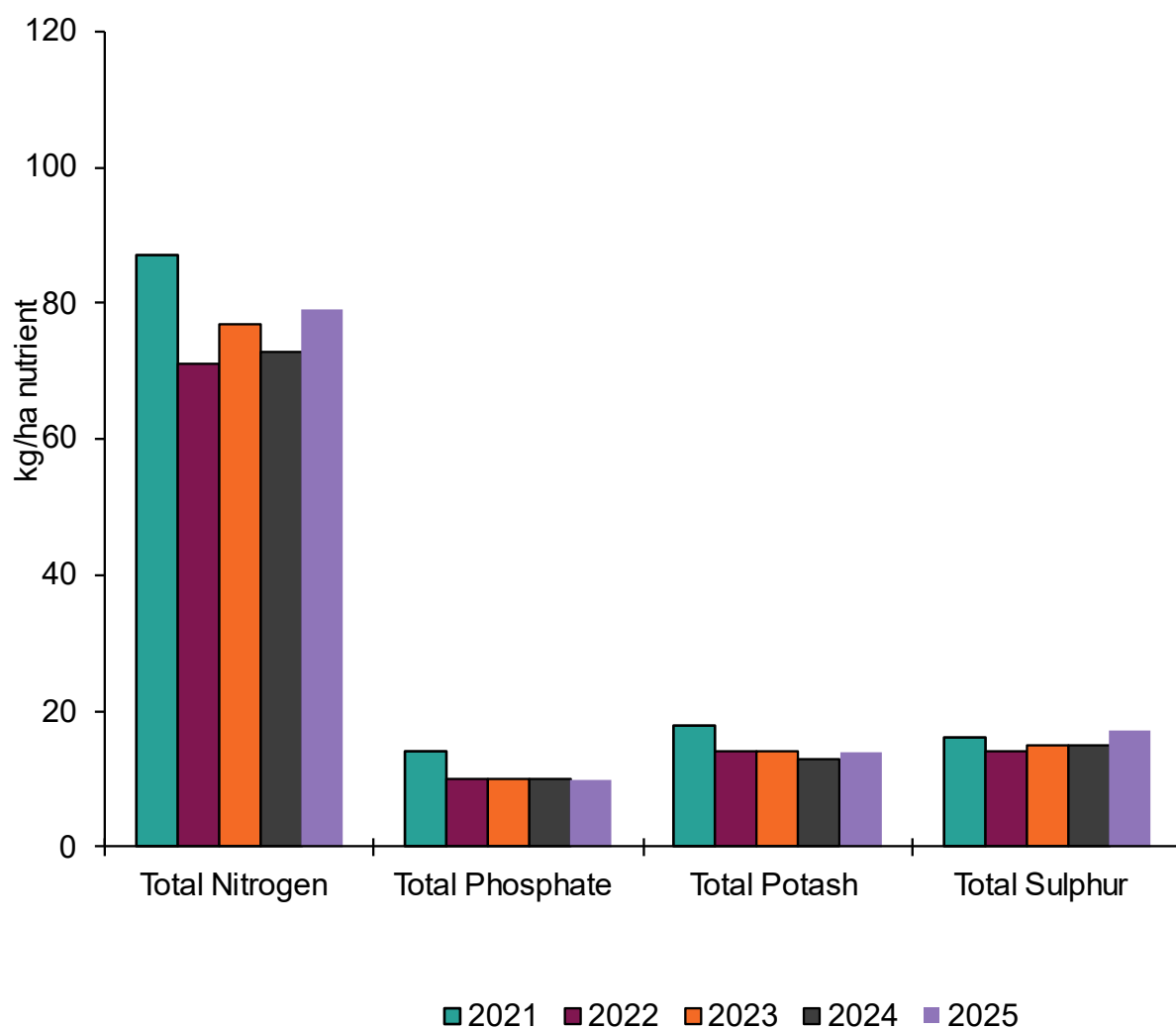
² Chalmers A. G. (2001) A Review of fertiliser, lime and organic manure use on farm crops in Great Britain from 1983 to 1997. *Soil Use and Management* **17**, 254-262.

A1 2025 RESULTS FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS

A1.1 Overview of fertiliser use on all crops and grass

Overall application rates of total nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur in Great Britain over the last five years are illustrated in Figure A1.1. The 2025, overall application rate of nitrogen for all crops and grass is 79 kg/ha, an increase of 6 kg/ha from 2024. Overall application rates for phosphate, potash and sulphur in 2025 were 10 kg/ha, 14 kg/ha and 17 kg/ha, respectively. Application rates for straight and compound nitrogen applied on crops and grassland are also presented in Table A1.1.

Figure A1.1 Overall application rate (kg/ha) on all crops and grass, Great Britain 2021 – 2025



A1.1.1 Nitrogen

Overview of nitrogen use on all crops and grassland

Table A1.1 Overall application rate of nitrogen (kg/ha), Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total nitrogen

	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	130	51	87
2022	118	34	71
2023	125	38	77
2024	121	34	73
2025	127	42	79

Straight nitrogen

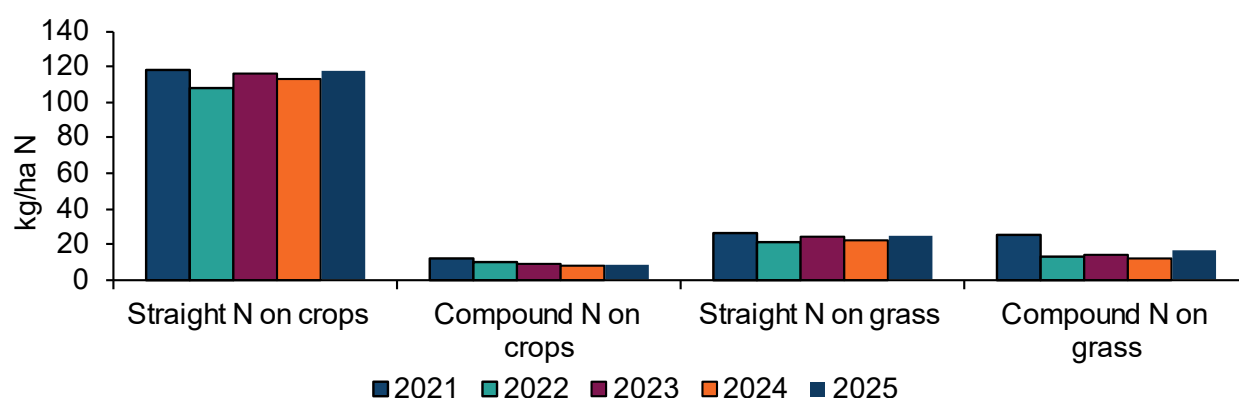
	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	118	26	68
2022	108	21	59
2023	116	24	65
2024	113	22	63
2025	118	25	65

Compound nitrogen

	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	12	25	19
2022	10	13	12
2023	9	14	12
2024	8	12	11
2025	9	17	13

The 6 kg/ha increase in the overall application rate of nitrogen for all crops and grass in 2025 (Figure A1.1) was caused by a 6 kg/ha increase on crops and an 8 kg/ha increase on grass. When compared with 2024, the rate of straight N increased by 5 kg/ha for crops and by 3 kg/ha for grass (Figure A1.2). The rate of compound N increased by 1 kg/ha on crops and increased by 5 kg/ha on grass. The mean application rates of use of total N, straight N and compound N on all crops and grass over the five-year period (2021-2025) were 77 kg/ha, 64 kg/ha and 13 kg/ha, respectively.

Figure A1.2 Overall straight and compound nitrogen use (kg/ha), Great Britain 2021 – 2025



Overview of Nitrogen use on crops: Section A1.1.1

Straight N continues to be the main source of nitrogen on crops, with 83% of cropping area receiving a straight nitrogen dressing in 2025 (Appendix 2 Table GB1.2). This was 1 percentage point more than in 2024. The average field rate of straight N on crops increased by 6 kg/ha to 143 kg/ha. This resulted in a 5 kg/ha increase in the overall application rate of straight N on crops which was 118 kg/ha in 2025.

There are a several reasons for the dominance of straight nitrogen over the use of nitrogen in compound fertilisers, with the principal one being the large area of winter-sown crops. As is shown in Appendix Table AA3.3.1, about 54% of the cropping area was sown to winter cereals and winter oilseed rape in 2025. These crops can receive most of any necessary dressings of phosphate and potash in the seedbed or during the autumn and winter, leaving just the nitrogen (and sulphur) to be applied, usually as more than one dressing, during the busy spring period of active crop growth. The need for precise timing of nitrogen applications has also contributed to a separation of nitrogen applications from those of phosphate and potash for spring-sown crops, especially spring cereals and sugar beet. Thus, a continuing increase in the use of straight nitrogen now applies to most spring-sown crops for agronomic and environmental reasons, as well as for the optimisation of logistics and the efficient use of time in the spring. The exception is maincrop potatoes where compound nitrogen accounted for 65% of dressing cover in 2025.

In the context of this report and elsewhere, straight nitrogen includes nitrogen plus sulphur fertiliser products. The term “straight nitrogen” denotes a nitrogen-containing product without any associated phosphate or potash.

Overview of Nitrogen use on Grassland: Section A1.1.1

In 2025, the overall application rate for nitrogen on grass increased by 8 kg to 42 kg/ha (Table A1.1). The proportion of grass receiving a dressing of straight N increased by 3 percentage points to 26% in 2025 and the average field rate increased by 2 kg/ha to 95 kg/ha in 2025. The grass area dressed with compound N increased by 3 percentage points to 25% and the average field rate increased by 9 kg/ha to 66 kg/ha. Overall, this resulted in a 5 kg/ha increase to 17 kg/ha in the overall application rate of compound N on grass in 2025.

A1.1.2 Phosphate, Potash and Sulphur use

Overview of Phosphate use: Section A1.1.2

Table A1.2a shows overall phosphate applications for the past five years. In 2025 the overall application rate on crops decreased by 1 kg/ha to 16 kg/ha. This resulted from a decreased dressing cover at 31% and an increased average field rate of 52 kg/ha of phosphate on crops in 2025. For grassland, the overall application rate increased by 1 kg/ha to 5 kg/ha and the dressing cover was 24%. The average field rate increased 1 kg/ha to 20 kg/ha. The five year means for overall phosphate application rates for crops and grass were 18 kg/ha and 5 kg/ha, respectively.

Table A1.2a Overall application rate of phosphate and potash (kg/ha), Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total phosphate

	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	22	7	14
2022	17	4	10
2023	17	4	10
2024	17	4	10
2025	16	5	10

Total potash

	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	28	11	18
2022	24	6	14
2023	23	6	14
2024	22	6	13
2025	22	8	14

Overview of Potash use: Section A1.1.2

On crops, the overall application rate of potash was unchanged at 22 kg/ha in 2025. Dressing cover decreased by 3 percentage points and the average field rate increased by 3 kg/ha to 63 kg/ha in 2025. On grassland, dressing cover increased by 4 percentage points to 26% and overall application rate increased to 8 kg/ha in 2025. The average field rate increased by 2 kg/ha to 30 kg/ha. The five year means for overall potash application rates for crops and grass were 24 kg/ha and 7 kg/ha, respectively.

Overview of Sulphur use: Section A1.1.2

Table A1.2b shows overall sulphur (SO₃) application rates for the past five years. In 2025, the overall application rate of sulphur on crops increased by 2 kg/ha to 31 kg/ha. The proportion of the cropping area receiving a sulphur dressing increased by 3 percentage points to 60% and the average field rate increased 1 kg/ha to 52 kg/ha. The overall application rate of sulphur on grass increased by 2 kg/ha to 6 kg/ha in 2025. The low overall application rate of sulphur on grass is caused by a combination of lower dressing cover percentages and lower average field rates on grass than on crops.

Table A1.2b Overall application rate of sulphur (kg/ha SO₃), Great Britain 2021 – 2025

	Crops	Grass	All crops and grass
2021	30	5	16
2022	27	3	14
2023	28	5	15
2024	29	4	15
2025	31	6	17

A1.2 FERTILISER USE ON MAJOR CROPS IN 2025

Overall application rates and average field rates of fertiliser application for major crops in Great Britain over the past five years are summarised in Tables A1.3a and A1.3b. Dressing cover percentages for the same period are shown in Table A1.3c. More detailed statistics for 2025 are presented in Appendix 2. Longer term trends in overall application rates of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur are summarised in Section A2.

Small apparent changes in fertiliser use on individual crops should be treated with caution as these estimates are based on a smaller number of farms and fields than the aggregate estimates for all crops.

Table A1.3a Overall application rate (kg/ha) on major crops, Great Britain 2021–2025

Total nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	186	98	140	125	167	67
2022	167	92	129	162	152	59
2023	174	95	137	143	164	67
2024	172	97	135	128	163	67
2025	179	98	145	122	170	77
Straight nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	179	74	131	35	157	58
2022	163	70	122	80	147	53
2023	170	74	131	69	159	61
2024	169	78	129	58	158	60
2025	174	78	136	49	163	71
Compound nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	7	24	9	89	9	8
2022	5	22	7	82	5	6
2023	4	21	6	73	4	6
2024	3	20	6	70	4	7
2025	5	20	9	73	7	6
Total phosphate	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	20	28	24	80	23	19
2022	15	23	16	92	17	14
2023	15	24	17	92	17	21
2024	15	22	19	100	16	17
2025	13	23	19	69	15	16
Total potash	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	25	34	31	153	26	44
2022	19	33	24	189	15	35
2023	20	32	27	158	20	39
2024	19	30	23	188	16	35
2025	19	31	27	154	15	36
Total sulphur	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ^{1,2}	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	38	22	36	[z]	59	23
2022	36	16	33	[z]	53	17
2023	36	20	33	[z]	51	22
2024	37	21	34	[z]	56	19
2025	40	23	37	[z]	53	26

¹ Figures for maincrop potatoes include second earlies.

² Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

³ Single crop grouping for the combined winter and spring oilseed rape areas.

⁴ Winter oilseed rape only from 2025.

Table A1.3b Average field rates (kg/ha) on major crops, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	188	102	143	132	168	74
2022	170	97	135	171	155	66
2023	176	100	140	149	164	77
2024	175	100	143	145	165	78
2025	180	102	148	132	172	92

Straight nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	184	91	140	89	160	71
2022	169	84	132	152	154	65
2023	175	92	136	135	162	75
2024	172	90	139	116	161	80
2025	177	91	141	89	169	93

Compound nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	55	51	56	115	42	28
2022	60	52	60	132	40	36
2023	50	50	51	90	45	63
2024	42	52	54	95	35	35
2025	46	55	55	113	35	50

Total phosphate	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	54	49	52	104	55	41
2022	50	44	46	112	49	36
2023	46	45	46	102	55	46
2024	49	47	53	119	52	34
2025	51	48	53	101	55	53

Total potash	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	62	61	62	170	64	64
2022	57	58	59	214	51	64
2023	53	56	61	185	59	63
2024	55	57	60	207	53	62
2025	59	59	63	194	50	66

Total sulphur	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ^{1,2}	Oilseed rape ^{3,4}	Sugar beet
2021	52	40	51	[z]	75	32
2022	53	36	49	[z]	67	30
2023	54	40	49	[z]	71	37
2024	55	37	52	[z]	72	36
2025	55	40	52	[z]	71	41

¹ Figures for maincrop potatoes include second earlies.

² Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

³ Single crop grouping for the combined winter and spring oilseed rape areas.

⁴ Winter oilseed rape only from 2025.

Table A1.3c Dressing cover (% area) on major crops, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	99	96	98	94	99	91
2022	98	95	96	95	98	90
2023	99	96	98	96	100	87
2024	98	97	94	89	99	87
2025	99	96	98	93	99	84
Straight nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	98	81	94	39	98	82
2022	96	83	92	53	96	82
2023	97	80	97	52	98	81
2024	98	87	92	50	98	75
2025	98	85	97	55	96	76
Compound nitrogen	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	12	47	16	78	22	30
2022	8	42	12	62	13	17
2023	7	42	11	82	10	9
2024	8	38	11	74	13	21
2025	11	37	17	65	20	13
Total phosphate	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	37	58	46	77	42	46
2022	30	52	36	82	34	39
2023	31	52	36	90	31	45
2024	30	48	35	84	31	49
2025	26	48	36	68	27	29
Total potash	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	40	56	51	90	41	68
2022	33	56	41	88	30	55
2023	37	58	44	85	34	61
2024	35	53	38	91	31	56
2025	33	53	42	79	31	54
Total sulphur	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter barley	Maincrop potatoes ¹	Oilseed rape ^{2,3}	Sugar beet
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	73	55	71	36	79	70
2022	67	46	67	23	80	55
2023	67	50	68	42	72	59
2024	67	56	65	42	79	53
2025	73	58	72	38	75	63

¹ Figures for maincrop potatoes include second earlies.

² Single crop grouping for the combined winter and spring oilseed rape areas.

³ Winter oilseed rape only from 2025.

Overview of number of fertiliser applications

In 2025, the majority of the main crop groups recorded a similar number of applications when compared to 2024. The one exception to this trend was sugar beet, which noted a decrease of 0.37 in the total number of applications. This was a reversal of a similar sized increase between 2023 and 2024. Winter cereals and winter oilseed rape remained the crop groups with the highest total number of applications, while established grassland (5 years and over) recorded the fewest.

The number of straight nitrogen applications in 2025 were largely consistent with previous seasons. The exception to this was on Grass 5 years and over which increased slightly in 2025. It should be noted however that dressing cover of straight N on permanent grassland is low, 26% in 2025.

Table A1.4 Average number of applications of mineral fertiliser, where applied, and those which are of straight nitrogen, to different crops or crop groups, Great Britain 2022 – 2025

	Average number of fertiliser applications							
	Total number of applications				of which straight N or NS			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Winter cereals	2.96	2.95	2.91	2.90	2.34	2.35	2.28	2.31
Winter oilseed rape	2.86	2.98	2.77	2.96	2.21	2.40	2.21	2.40
Spring cereals	1.80	1.86	1.93	1.86	1.12	1.16	1.30	1.27
Potatoes	1.97	2.04	1.77	1.85	0.61	0.58	0.51	0.71
Sugar beet	1.85	1.94	2.18	1.81	1.13	1.20	1.25	1.13
Grass under 5 years old	1.60	1.65	1.57	1.54	0.77	0.81	0.72	0.71
Grass 5 years and over	1.23	1.26	1.26	1.29	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.42

A1.2.1 Nitrogen use on Major Crops

In 2025, overall application rates of total nitrogen (Table A1.3a) increased on all the major crops except potatoes, which decreased by 6 kg/ha, but these data are always more variable. The overall application rate increased to the greatest extent on winter barley and sugar beet by 10 kg/ha in both cases. Average field rates (Table A1.3b) changed in the 2-5 kg/ha range for all major crops except sugar beet. Dressing covers showed no consistent pattern of change in 2025, but the largest was a 4 percentage point increase observed on winter barley. For maincrop potatoes and sugar beet dressing covers were lower, but these tend to be more variable (Table A1.3c) due to the fewer fields of these crops in the Survey.

Nitrogen use on Winter wheat: Section A1.2.1

The field cropping information collected in the Survey enables separate estimates to be made of nitrogen fertiliser use on milling and non-milling (seed/feed) categories of winter wheat (Table A1.5). The difference between the rates applied to milling and non-milling wheats reflect differences in crop husbandry and nitrogen management practices.

Table A1.5 Average field rates (kg/ha) of nitrogen on cereals by market use, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total nitrogen

Winter wheat			Spring barley		Winter barley		Maize	
	Milling	Non-milling	Malting	Non-malting	Malting	Non-malting	Forage	AD
2021	202	180	101	104	128	146	[x]	[x]
2022	184	163	98	95	116	138	[x]	[x]
2023	187	170	100	99	125	144	[x]	[x]
2024	191	168	102	98	138	144	[x]	[x]
2025	208	168	105	98	139	150	60	99

Note: 'AD' denotes maize grown for anaerobic digestion.

Nitrogen fertiliser requirements for winter wheat depend on the intended market end use (grain N levels), as well as upon soil type and the residual soil nitrogen fertility from previous cropping and manure practice. Milling varieties are often grown as a second wheat and often receive extra nitrogen, either as a solid dressing or as late foliar urea spray, which is applied to improve the chances of achieving an adequate grain protein content for a milling premium. High yielding feed crops, rather than potentially lower yielding varieties of milling wheat, are often grown as a first winter wheat after a break crop, such as oilseed rape. This is to exploit the potential yield and residual soil nitrogen benefits from the crop rotation, and to avoid any risk of lower grain protein due to a high yield diluting the grain nitrogen concentration for a first wheat in the rotation. The average field application rate on milling wheat increased by 17 kg/ha to 208 kg/ha, and the rate on non-milling wheat was unchanged at 168 kg/ha. The non-milling crop continues to dominate the wheat crop area (Table A1.6) with 69% of the crop in 2025 (5-year mean: 66%).

Table A1.6 Percentage distribution (% crop area) of cereal crop areas by market use, Great Britain 2021 – 2025, as estimated from the Survey

Winter wheat			Spring barley		Winter barley	
	Milling	Non-milling	Malting	Non-malting	Malting	Non-malting
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	36	64	58	42	18	82
2022	34	66	57	43	14	86
2023	36	64	58	42	19	81
2024	31	69	58	42	17	83
2025	31	69	55	45	18	82

Nitrogen use on Spring barley: Section A1.2.1

Overall application rates of total nitrogen on spring barley increased by 1 kg/ha to 98 kg/ha, which was the same as the five-year mean (2021-2025) of 98 kg/ha. The rate of straight N was unchanged at 78 kg/ha as was the overall application rate of compound N at 20 kg/ha. The average field rate for straight N increased by 1 kg/ha and the rate for compound N increased by 3 kg/ha compared with 2024. The percentage of the spring barley area receiving a dressing of straight N decreased by 2 percentage points to 85%, and dressing cover with compound N decreased 1% to 37% (Table A1.3c).

Further analysis of the data by crop type (Table A1.5) shows the average field rate of nitrogen applied to spring malting barley increased by 3 kg/ha to 105 kg/ha, while that for spring non-malting barley was unchanged at 98 kg/ha. In the case of the spring malting crop the five-year mean is 101 kg/ha, whilst for non-malting crops the mean is 99 kg/ha.

Estimated nitrogen rates on spring barley crops have been consistently a little higher on malting than non-malting crops. This slightly higher use of nitrogen on malting than non-malting crops may seem anomalous, since lower rates of nitrogen are recommended for malting barley, under the same conditions of soil type and nitrogen fertility level, than for the feed varieties of barley. This recommendation is made to avoid the risk of high grain nitrogen content, which could adversely affect subsequent malt quality. However, malting crops are normally grown on soils with low nitrogen fertility and the average field rates of nitrogen reported for malting varieties in Table A1.5 are in the range recommended for mineral soil types with low nitrogen residues (70 - 120 kg/ha)³. Feed crops on the other hand are often grown within mixed rotations, which tend to have a higher soil nitrogen fertility, with consequently less need for nitrogen fertiliser.

The proportion of spring barley grown for malting has fluctuated during the last five years (Table A1.6). The mean for the period 2021-25 is 57%, with the lowest proportion recorded in 2025 at 55%.

Nitrogen use on Winter barley: Section A1.2.1

In the period 2002-08 the total nitrogen overall application rate on winter barley decreased from year to year, down to 132 kg/ha in 2008. This rate then increased albeit with some fluctuations to 2017, but in 2018 the rate decreased by 6 kg/ha to 143 kg/ha. In 2025, overall total N application rate increased by 10 kg/ha to 145 kg/ha. The application rate of straight N, which was used on 97% of the winter barley crop area, increased to 136 kg/ha in 2025, above the five year (2021-25) mean of 130 kg/ha. The compound N overall application rate increased by 3 kg/ha to 9 kg/ha, above the five-year mean of 7 kg/ha.

As with the spring sown crop, nitrogen requirements for winter barley depend on a range of agronomic factors, such as the intended market for the grain. Average field rates of nitrogen on winter malting crops increased by 1 kg/ha compared to 2024 to 139 kg/ha, above the five-year mean of 129 kg/ha. For winter non-malting crops, the average field rate increased 6 kg/ha to 150 kg/ha (Table A1.5), above the five-year average of 144 kg/ha.

The higher application rates of nitrogen (five-year mean of 15 kg/ha) on non-malting, compared to malting winter barley crops, reflect typical agronomic practice, but the gap between malting and non-malting crops was smaller than in previous years. The majority of winter barley crops (both feed and malting) are grown in England in arable rotations, usually after a previous cereal crop, when the soil nitrogen fertility status is low. Higher nitrogen rates are recommended for feed crops. The proportion of winter barley area grown for malting was 18% in 2025, 1 percentage point higher than 2024, with the five-year mean calculated as 17%. (Table A1.6).

³ Anon. (2018). Nutrient Management Guide (RB209). Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). <https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209>

Nitrogen use on Maize: Section A1.2.1

The development of the field cropping information collected in the Survey now enables separate estimates to be made for nitrogen fertiliser use on forage maize and maize grown for anaerobic digestion (Table A1.5) in 2025.

The total nitrogen average field application rate for forage maize was 60 kg/ha in 2025. Maize grown for anaerobic digestion recorded a higher average field application rate, of 99 kg/ha.

Nitrogen use on Maincrop potatoes: Section A1.2.1

Total nitrogen use on maincrop potatoes has fluctuated over the last five years. Part of the reason for recent apparent fluctuations in the estimates of nutrient application rates may be because proportionally fewer fields of potatoes are covered by the Survey in comparison to other crops. This is because fields of potatoes on respondents' farms may be let out and grown by a third party, so it is not possible to record information in the Survey. Furthermore, fields of potatoes grown by a respondent, but not on the farm being surveyed, are not captured in the Survey.

In 2025, the overall application rate of nitrogen decreased by 6 kg to 122 kg/ha, which is below the five-year mean of 136 kg/ha (Table A1.3a).

Nitrogen use on Oilseed rape: Section A1.2.1

In 2025, the nitrogen average field rate on winter oilseed rape increased to 172 kg/ha, with a five-year mean of 165 kg/ha (Table A1.3b). The total crop area dressed with nitrogen was again unchanged, at 99% dressing cover.

Nitrogen use on Sugar beet: Section A1.2.1

The overall application rate of nitrogen on sugar beet increased by 10 kg/ha in 2025 to 77 kg/ha, above the five-year mean of 67 kg/ha. The application rate of straight N, by far the most widely used form of nitrogen in this crop (five-year mean: 79% of the dressed area), increased to 71 kg/ha (Table A1.3a, A1.3c). The average field rate of straight N increased to 93 kg/ha, 16 kg/ha above the five-year mean of 77 kg/ha.

A1.2.2 Phosphate and Potash use on Major Crops

Phosphate: Section A1.2.2

In 2025, the overall application rate of phosphate on the major crops changed by 1-2 kg/ha except on potatoes, where it decreased by 31 kg/ha (Table A1.3a). Average field rate changes were small and variable on cereal crops, whereas potatoes and sugar beet recorded an 18 kg/ha decrease and a 19 kg/ha increase respectively. (Table A1.3b). In 2025, the overall phosphate application rate on crops decreased by 1 kg/ha to 16 kg/ha (Table A1.2a), below the 2021-25 five-year average (18 kg/ha).

Potash: Section A1.2.2

Overall, potash application rate on crops was unchanged at 22 kg/ha in 2025, below the 2021-2025 five-year average of 24 kg/ha (Table A1.2a). This was due to a reduction in dressing cover of 3 percentage points to 35%. Average field rate changes of potash were in the range of 2-4 kg/ha for all the major crops except potatoes, which decreased by 13 kg/ha (Table A1.3b).

A1.2.3 Sulphur use on Major Crops

The Survey has collected detailed information on sulphur fertiliser use since 1993, when only 3-6% of the cereal crop area and 8% of the oilseed rape area received an application of sulphur. Between 2010 to 2020, sulphur dressing covers on winter cereals and sugar

beet grew significantly, peaking in 2020. Since then, they have been slightly drawing back. In 2025, sulphur dressing cover increased slightly overall, but with a decrease of 4 percentage points observed on winter oilseed rape, (Table A1.3c). The average field rates for crops were generally either the same or higher than in 2024, with winter oilseed rape being the exception.

A1.3 FERTILISER USE ON GRASSLAND 2021 - 2025

Overall application rates on grassland in Great Britain in the last five years, as previously shown (Tables A1.1 and A1.2), are summarised again in Table A1.10. The corresponding estimates of dressing cover and average field rates for each nutrient are shown in Table A1.11.

Table A1.7 Overall application rate (kg/ha) on grassland, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

	Straight nitrogen	Compound nitrogen	Total nitrogen	Total phosphate	Total potash	Total sulphur
2021	26	25	51	7	11	5
2022	21	13	34	4	6	3
2023	24	14	38	4	6	5
2024	22	12	34	4	6	4
2025	25	17	42	5	8	6

In 2025, dressing cover for total nitrogen on grass increased by 6 percentage points to 48% (Table A1.8). The long-term trend had been for declining dressing cover for total nitrogen but 2025 saw a small recovery from the low level of 42% reported in 2022 and 2024. In 2025, grass dressing covers of straight and compound N both increased slightly. The average field rate for compound N was 66 kg/ha while for straight N it was 95 kg/ha. In 2025, the overall application rates for phosphate and potash were 5 kg/ha and 8 kg/ha, respectively (Table A1.7).

Table A1.8 Dressing cover (%) and average field rate (kg/ha) of fertiliser on grassland, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Dressing cover (%)

	Straight nitrogen %	Compound nitrogen %	Total nitrogen %	Total phosphate %	Total potash %	Total sulphur %
2021	28	37	59	37	39	16
2022	23	22	42	22	22	11
2023	24	23	44	22	24	12
2024	23	22	42	21	22	13
2025	26	25	48	24	26	15

Average field rate (kg/ha)

	Straight nitrogen	Compound nitrogen	Total nitrogen	Total phosphate	Total potash	Total sulphur
2021	95	66	87	20	28	32
2022	91	58	80	18	25	32
2023	101	62	88	20	26	37
2024	93	57	82	19	28	34
2025	95	66	87	20	30	37

The proportion of the grass area receiving a straight nitrogen dressing increased slightly in 2025 to 26% and the compound N dressing cover was at 25% in 2025 (Table A1.8). The dressing covers of phosphate and potash on grass were 24% and 26% respectively. The five-year means for 2021-2025 were 25% and 27%, respectively. The sulphur dressing cover increased by 2 percentage points from 2024 to 15% in 2025.

In 2025, the average field rates for phosphate on grass increased by 1 kg/ha to 20 kg/ha and for potash increased by 2 kg/ha to 30 kg/ha. The sulphur average field rate increased by 3 kg/ha to 37 kg/ha, above the five-year average of 34 kg/ha.

A1.3.1 Nitrogen use on Grassland

Cutting and grazing management: Section A1.3.1

Fertiliser requirements for grassland vary according to the type of livestock enterprise, intensity of production and the associated cutting and grazing regimes used for sward management. Fertiliser use on dairy, other livestock, and mixed farms in Great Britain in 2025 are presented in Appendix 2. The Survey estimates of annual distributions of the total grassland area between grazing and cutting management regimes since 2021 are summarised in Table A1.9. These should not be taken as authoritative national estimates of grassland utilisation, as the Survey is designed to estimate fertiliser application rates, not to derive accurate crop areas, although these may still be the best available estimates of grassland utilisation by area.

Table A1.9 Grassland utilisation (% of grass area), Great Britain 2021 – 2025

	Grazed ¹ %	Silage ² %	Hay ² %
2021	95	30	10
2022	94	28	12
2023	94	28	11
2024	93	27	12
2024	91	29	17

Note: ¹ May also be cut, ² May also be grazed

Nearly all grassland is grazed at some stage during the season (Table A1.9) and the proportion in 2025, 91%, is just below the five-year mean of 93%. Nitrogen usage for the different cutting and grazing categories is presented in Table A1.10. The differences in average field rates for nitrogen illustrate the influence of grassland management practice on fertiliser inputs with rates being lowest generally in grass cut for hay, higher in grass which is grazed and higher still in grass cut for silage.

Table A1.10 Nitrogen application rates (kg/ha) by grassland utilisation, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total nitrogen

	Overall application rate		
	Grazed ¹	Silage ²	Hay ²
2021	48	96	43
2022	31	73	29
2023	34	81	35
2024	30	76	32
2025	37	84	37

	Average field rate		
	Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	83	114	73
2022	76	99	67
2023	82	108	76
2024	76	101	72
2025	82	107	76

Table A1.10 Nitrogen application rates (kg/ha) by grassland utilisation, Great Britain 2021 – 2025 (continued)

Straight nitrogen

	Overall application rate		
	Grazed ¹	Silage ²	Hay ²
2021	24	52	18
2022	19	46	16
2023	21	53	23
2024	18	50	21
2025	21	51	24

	Average field rate		
	Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	91	109	81
2022	86	08	74
2023	93	112	84
2024	85	104	90
2025	88	111	88

Compound nitrogen

	Overall application rate		
	Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	24	43	24
2022	12	27	13
2023	14	28	12
2024	12	26	12
2025	16	33	13

	Average field rate		
	Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	64	86	60
2022	57	70	52
2023	61	76	55
2024	56	71	48
2025	64	79	54

Note: ¹ May also be cut, ² May also be grazed.

In 2025, the overall total nitrogen rates increased by 7 kg/ha to 37 kg/ha for grazed grass and by 8 kg/ha to 84 kg/ha for silage grass. The overall nitrogen rate on grass for hay increased by 5 kg/ha to 37 kg/ha. Rates reported on grass cut for hay need to be treated with caution due to the relatively small numbers of grass fields being managed this way (Table A1.10).

The average field rates of straight nitrogen increased for both grazed and silage grass. The five-year means for overall straight nitrogen rate are 21, 50 and 20 kg/ha for grazed grass, silage and hay, respectively. Compound nitrogen average field rates increased on grazed and silage grass in 2025. The five-year means for the overall compound nitrogen rates are 16, 31 and 15 kg/ha for grazed grass, silage and hay, respectively.

The fall in nitrogen use over the long term on grassland until 2008 is likely to be related in part to decreases in ruminant livestock numbers which may have reduced herbage production requirements. Since then, the rate of nitrogen application to grassland had remained relatively constant, but the 2025 overall nitrogen rate of 42 kg/ha was considerably lower than the 55 kg/ha reported in 2008 (Table A1.1).

A1.3.2 Phosphate and Potash use on Grassland

As for nitrogen, phosphate and potash requirements for grassland depend on the system of sward management with overall application and field rates for both phosphate and potash being higher in grass cut for silage.

Table A1.11 Phosphate and potash use (kg/ha) by grassland utilisation, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Total phosphate

Overall application rate				Average field rate			
	Grazed ¹	Silage ²	Hay ²		Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	7	12	8	2021	20	26	19
2022	4	8	5	2022	18	21	21
2023	4	8	5	2023	18	22	21
2024	4	8	5	2024	19	24	19
2025	5	8	5	2025	20	23	19

Total potash

Overall application rate				Average field rate			
	Grazed	Silage	Hay		Grazed	Silage	Hay
2021	10	22	12	2021	26	40	27
2022	5	12	8	2022	24	30	29
2023	6	13	8	2023	26	33	32
2024	6	14	8	2024	26	36	30
2025	7	16	8	2025	28	37	30

Note: ¹ May also be cut, ² May also be grazed

In 2025, the overall phosphate rates were unchanged for silage and hay grass and increased by 1 kg/ha for grazed grass. The corresponding five-year means for grazed grass, silage and hay were 5, 9 and 6 kg/ha, respectively. The average field rate changed by 1 kg/ha for grazed and silage grass in 2025. Overall potash rates increased very slightly in 2025. The average field rate of potash increased by 1 kg/ha on silage grass and by 2 kg/ha on grazed grass.

A1.3.3 Sulphur use on Grassland

In 2025, 15% of the total grassland area received a sulphur dressing (five-year mean 13% for 2021-25 period). Of this, a higher proportion of grassland cut for silage is treated with sulphur compared to grazed grass or grass cut for hay (Table A1.12). Estimated dressing covers have fluctuated in the past five years, with 1-3 percentage point changes observed in 2025.

The significant proportion of heavier textured soil types which occur in the main grassland farming areas, together with assumed inputs of sulphur from manure applications to grass fields, are among possible influences on the consistently low level of sulphur fertiliser use on grassland.

Table A1.12 Sulphur use on grassland, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Dressing cover (%)

	Grazed ¹	Silage ²	Hay ²	All grass	All crops	All crops and grass
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	15	25	17	16	60	35
2022	11	21	11	11	54	30
2023	12	23	16	12	55	32
2024	12	25	13	13	57	32
2025	15	27	14	15	60	34

Average field rate per year (kg/ha SO₃)

	Grazed ¹	Silage ²	Hay ²	All grass	All crops	All crops and grass
2021	32	38	37	32	51	46
2022	30	36	39	32	50	46
2023	34	42	34	37	51	48
2024	33	38	36	34	51	47
2025	35	39	35	37	52	48

Note: ¹ May also be cut, ² May also be grazed

Estimated average field rates of sulphur application peaked for grazed and silage grass in 2007 at 45 kg/ha and 47 kg/ha, respectively and for hay in 2008 at 47 kg/ha. The average field rate for grazed grass fell back during the 2010s, averaging between 29-35 kg/ha, although 2018 was a notable exception at 37 kg/ha. Silage grass average field rates observed a similar trend, averaging between 32-42 kg/ha over the period. In 2025, compared to 2024 values, average field rates increased for grazed and silage grass and a 1 kg/ha decrease was observed for hay. The five-year means are 33, 39 and 36 kg/ha SO₃ for grazed, silage and hay grassland, respectively (Table A1.12). Note that the average field rates in Table A1.12 are annual totals, not rates per cu

A2 LONGER TERM TRENDS IN FERTILISER USE FOR GREAT BRITAIN

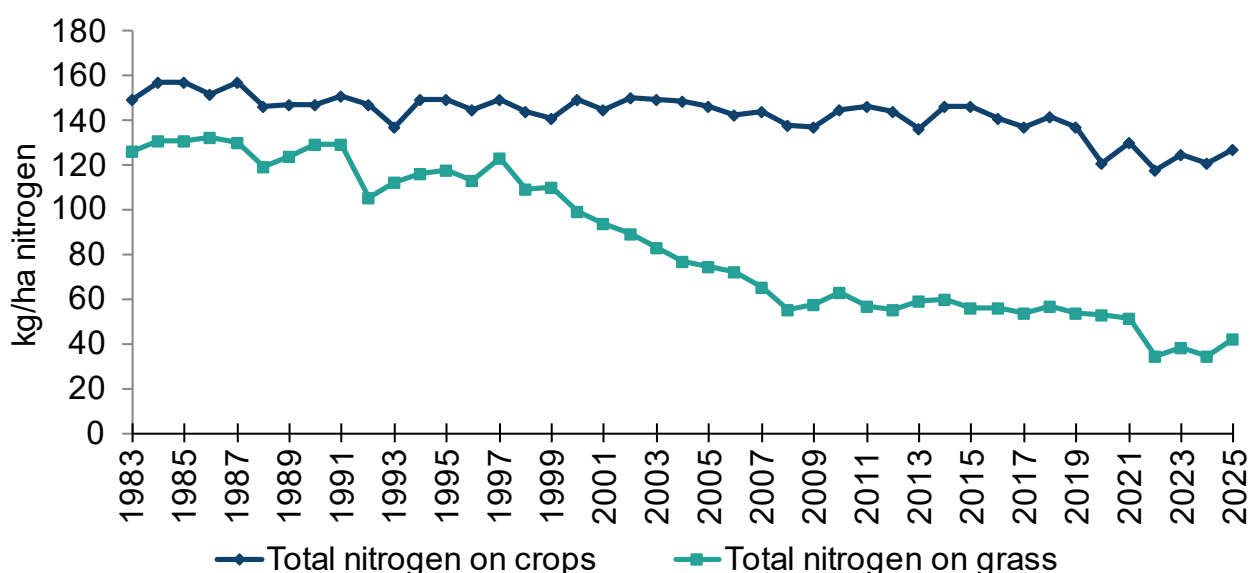
A2.1 Longer term trends in Nitrogen use, from 1983

The BSFP commenced as an integrated British Survey in 1992. Before then, the annual Survey of Fertiliser Practice had been completed separately for England & Wales and for Scotland. Some survey statistics from those earlier surveys have since been collated to report an aggregated series for nutrient use in Great Britain since 1983, when the Survey in Scotland started. All the longer-term data represented in the figures within this section can be found in Appendix 1.

The aggregated data for Great Britain follow a similar pattern to that observed for England & Wales because a large proportion of both the cropping and grassland areas in Britain are in England & Wales. Overall total nitrogen rates for cropping and grassland in England & Wales since 1972 and in Scotland and Great Britain since 1983 are summarised in Table AA1.1. The data for Great Britain are presented graphically in Figure A2.1. Overall, nitrogen use has been consistently higher on crops than on grassland ever since the British Survey started.

Apart from a dip in 1992-93 due to major changes in the Common Agricultural Policy, the overall application rate of total nitrogen on cropping land stayed within the range 140-150 kg/ha, with some wider fluctuations caused by factors such as changes in the crop mix and area or changes in nitrogen applications to specific crops (see Figure A2.3). The estimates for the last five years have fallen outside this range, with the overall application rate of nitrogen on crops for Great Britain being 127 kg/ha in 2025. This rate has recovered from the notable low observed in 2022, which was driven by strong fertiliser prices.

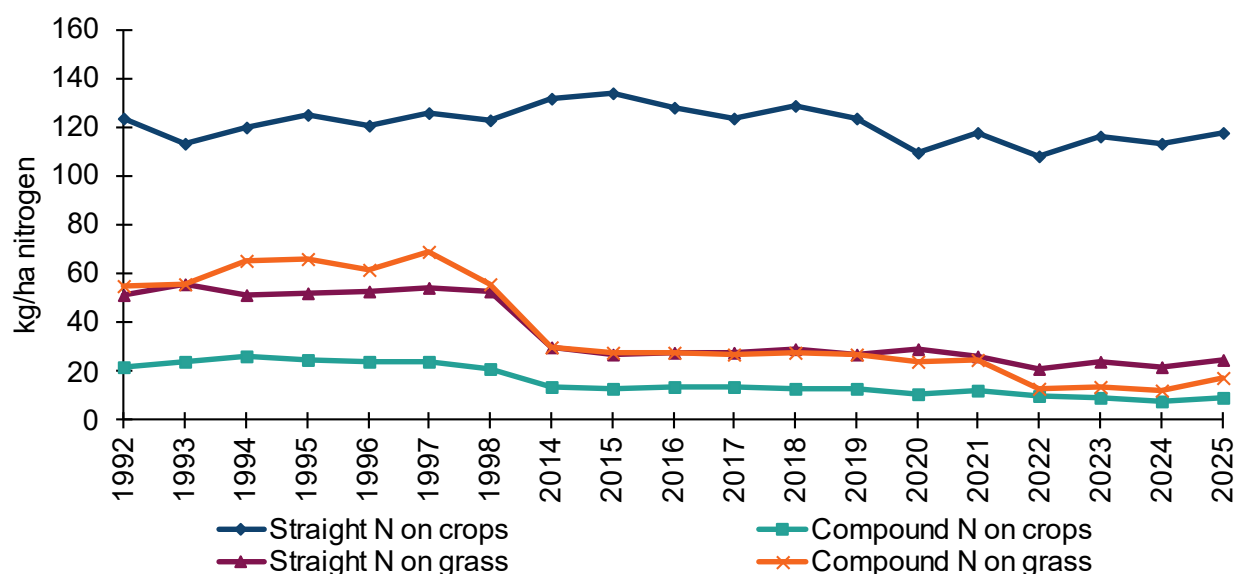
Figure A2.1 Overall application rates (kg/ha) of total nitrogen on crops and grassland, Great Britain 1983 – 2025



Nitrogen levels applied to grassland have always been lower than those on crops. From 1983 until 1999, the difference was fairly constant, averaging 27 kg/ha. Since 2000, the overall applications made to grass fell consistently relative to those made to crops. In the last five years the average difference in overall nitrogen rate was 84 kg/ha.

Data on straight and compound nitrogen for Great Britain are not available for the period 1983-91 when the Survey in Scotland was separate from the one in England & Wales. Figure A2.2 shows the overall application rates of straight and compound nitrogen on crops and grassland. Most of the total nitrogen fertiliser used on crops each year has been applied in straight form. On grassland, since 2009, the overall application rates of straight and compound nitrogen were similar, but with a greater decrease in compound N rate observed in 2022.

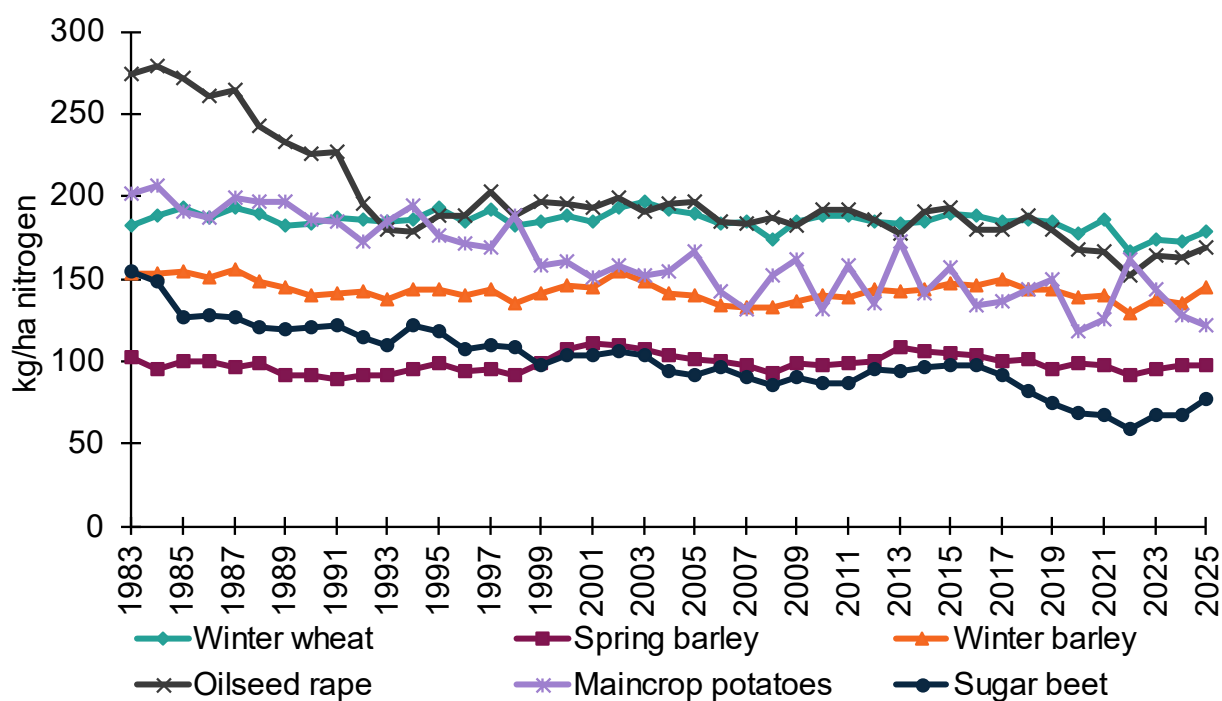
Figure A2.2 Overall application rates (kg/ha) of straight and compound nitrogen on crops and grassland, Great Britain 1992 – 2025



A2.1.1 Longer term trends in nitrogen use on major crops

Overall application rates of total nitrogen on the main arable crops in Great Britain since 1983 are shown in Figure A2.3.

Figure A2.3 Overall application rates (kg/ha) of total nitrogen on major arable crops, Great Britain 1983 – 2025



A2.1.2 Longer term trends in autumn and winter applications of nitrogen fertiliser

The BSFP can monitor the extent to which recommended agronomic advice is adopted. By analysing the timing of fertiliser applications, it is possible to assess the extent to which autumn and winter nitrogen is applied. The standard advice is that autumn nitrogen is not required for winter cereals, as economic yield benefits are rare and such applications are vulnerable to leaching loss. The Great Britain values have remained below 10% of the crop area treated for both winter cereal crops (wheat and barley) since 2003, with the dressing cover being 5% or below for both since 2021. The area receiving autumn nitrogen is too low for data relating to average field application to be used. Autumn nitrogen at 30 kg/ha is recommended for winter oilseed rape, unless the soil has a high nitrogen fertility, as the crop normally requires more nitrogen than winter cereals during the autumn growth period. Data relating to this commentary can be found in Appendix table AA1.2.

A2.2 LONGER TERM TRENDS IN PHOSPHATE, POTASH AND SULPHUR USE, FROM 1983

Historic annual overall application rates of phosphate, potash and sulphur on crops and on grassland in Great Britain are illustrated in Figure A2.4a and A2.4b, using the data presented in Appendix Tables AA1.3, AA1.4 and AA1.5.

Figure A2.4a Overall application rates (kg/ha) phosphate and potash on crops and grassland, Great Britain 1983 – 2025

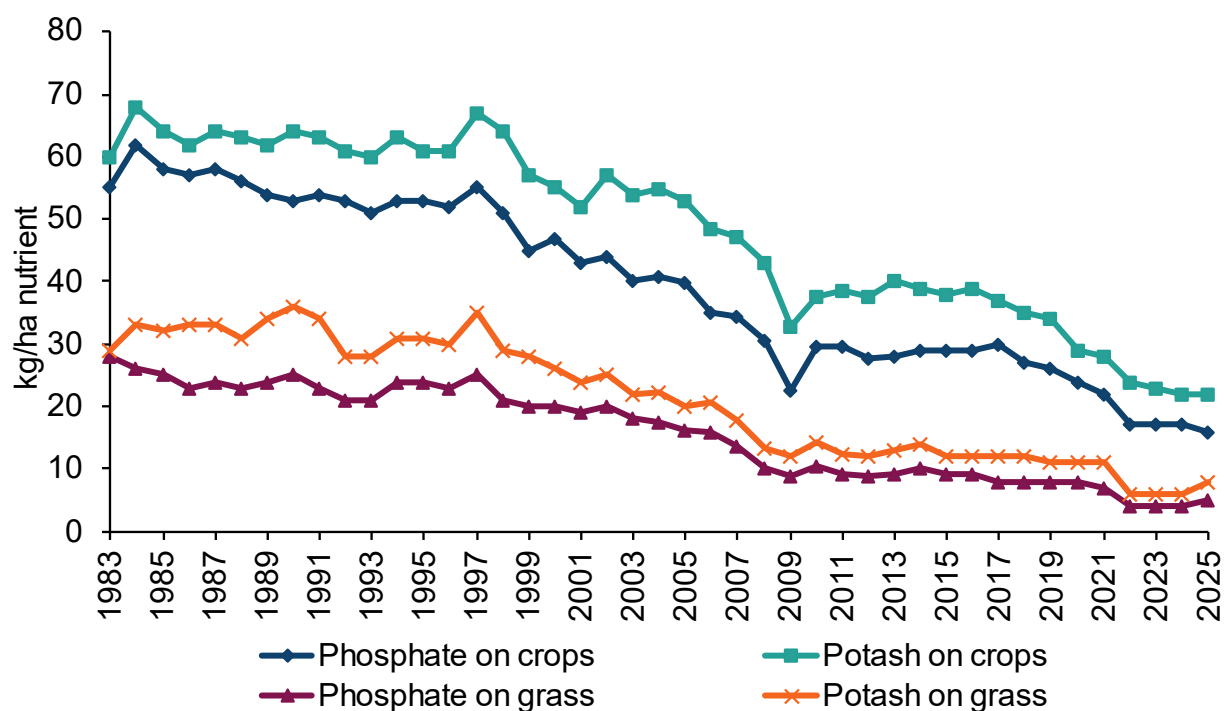
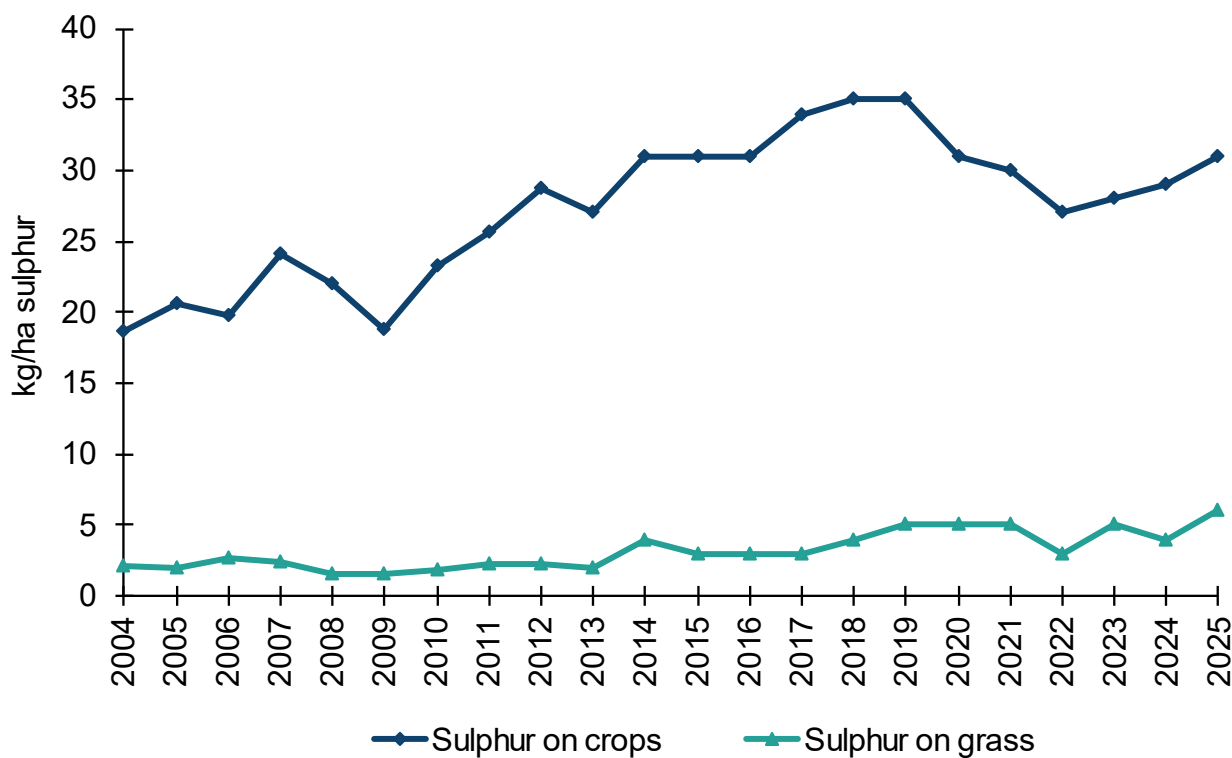


Figure A2.4b Overall application rates (kg/ha) of sulphur (SO_3) on crops and grassland, Great Britain 2004 – 2025



Overall phosphate application rates on crops declined gradually between 1984 and 1996, from 62 kg/ha to 52 kg/ha. Thereafter the decline in rates became more marked to 2010, with the dip in use in 2009 being caused by a major price increase for the nutrient at that time. The data show that, since 2010, overall application rates of phosphate and potash have remained relatively constant, and rates of 16 kg/ha 22 kg/ha respectively, were recorded in 2025. Overall phosphate rates on crops have been consistently higher than those recorded on grass.

The overall application rate of phosphate on grassland was highest in 1983, at 28 kg/ha, and then application remained relatively stable at 21-26 kg/ha between 1984 and 1998. Overall application rates declined more rapidly in the period between 1999 and 2009, when the rates were 20 kg/ha and 9 kg/ha, respectively. Since then, until 2021, the overall application rates remained stable at 7-10 kg/ha, declining further to 4-5 kg/ha from 2022 onwards.

Overall potash usage on crops declined slightly between 1983 and 1997, with the overall application rates in the 60-68 kg/ha range. Like phosphate, overall application rates reduced at a greater rate after this time to 33 kg/ha in 2009. The potash rate in 2009 was the lowest since 1983 and again was thought to be a reaction to the price of the nutrient. Since then, the overall application rates of potash on crops have gradually declined to 22 kg/ha in 2024 and 2025.

Compared to crops, the pattern of overall potash application on grassland has been more variable. A net decline was shown between 1983 and 2009; since then the rate has remained within the range of 6-14 kg/ha, and has been below 10 kg/ha since 2022.

Overall sulphur application rate on crops has increased steadily since 2004, and in 2025 increased by 2 kg/ha from 2024 to 31 kg/ha. On grassland the use of sulphur is much lower, but it too has increased, albeit it at a much lower rate. In 2004 the overall application rate was 2 kg/ha and in 2025 this was 6 kg/ha.

Overall application rates of phosphate and potash applied to crops are approximately three times those used on grassland. However, there is greater use of applied manures on grassland (37% cover) than on crops (29% cover) and grazed grassland also receives manure as it is grazed. Annual overall application rates of sulphur on crops and on grassland in Great Britain since 2004 are illustrated in Figure A2.4b.

On crops, the phosphate dressing cover has declined in all GB countries since 2004. However, the decline in England and Wales has been much higher (-37 percentage points) in comparison to Scotland, where the reduction was 19 percentage points for the period. Despite this, long-term trend dressing covers have been relatively stable in the last 5 years. On grass, phosphate dressing covers have also declined since 2004, but these too have stabilised in more recent years.

Potash dressing covers follow a similar pattern to phosphate, with a marked decline on crops in England and Wales since 2004, followed by stabilisation during the last 10 years.

Sulphur dressing covers have increased since 2004 on crops in all GB countries. At the start of the period, they were generally higher in Scotland than in England and Wales. In the last five years sulphur dressing covers have plateaued, although these were slightly higher in England and Wales than Scotland. Dressing covers on grass are lower than those observed on crops. They have increased since 2004, and in the last five years have tended to be higher in Scotland (mean 17%) than in England and Wales (mean 13%).

The data pertaining to dressing coverage of phosphate, potash and sulphur, on both crops and grassland, can be found in Appendix tables AA1.6b, AA1.6c and AA1.6d.

A2.2.1 Longer term trends in phosphate, potash and sulphur use on major crops

Overall application rates of phosphate and potash on the main arable crops in Great Britain since 1983 are shown in Figures A2.5a and A2.5b.

Phosphate use on the main combinable crops has shown a gradual net decline since 1983 (Figure A2.5a). The year 2009 saw more marked decreases in overall application rates due to a spike in fertiliser prices (-10 kg/ha for winter wheat and -13 kg/ha for winter barley). In 2010 overall phosphate rates recovered and there was a period of relative stability between 2010 and 2017, but since then there appears to have been a resumption in the decline. Overall phosphate use has also declined steadily on sugar beet (Figure A2.5d).

Potash use on the main combinable crops was relatively stable from 1983 to about the turn of the century. It then went through a period of decline to 2009, followed by relative stability between 2010 and 2017, before a return to apparent decline thereafter (Figure A2.5b). Overall potash application rates were declining steadily on potatoes and sugar beet. However, potash application rates on potatoes noted an increase in 2022 and 2024 (Figure A2.5d).

Overall application rates of sulphur (SO₃) on the main combinable crops have increased steadily since reporting of sulphur data began in 1983 (Figure A2.5c). However, these increases plateaued during the 2010s, with 2022 recording a second subsequent year of declining application rates. This downward movement reflects a decrease in the dressing cover of sulphur on these and other crops rather than decreases in the average rates which have been relatively constant and close to the recommended rate for many years (Tables A1.3b and A1.3c).

Figure A2.5a Overall application rates (kg/ha) of phosphate on major arable crops, Great Britain 1983 – 2025

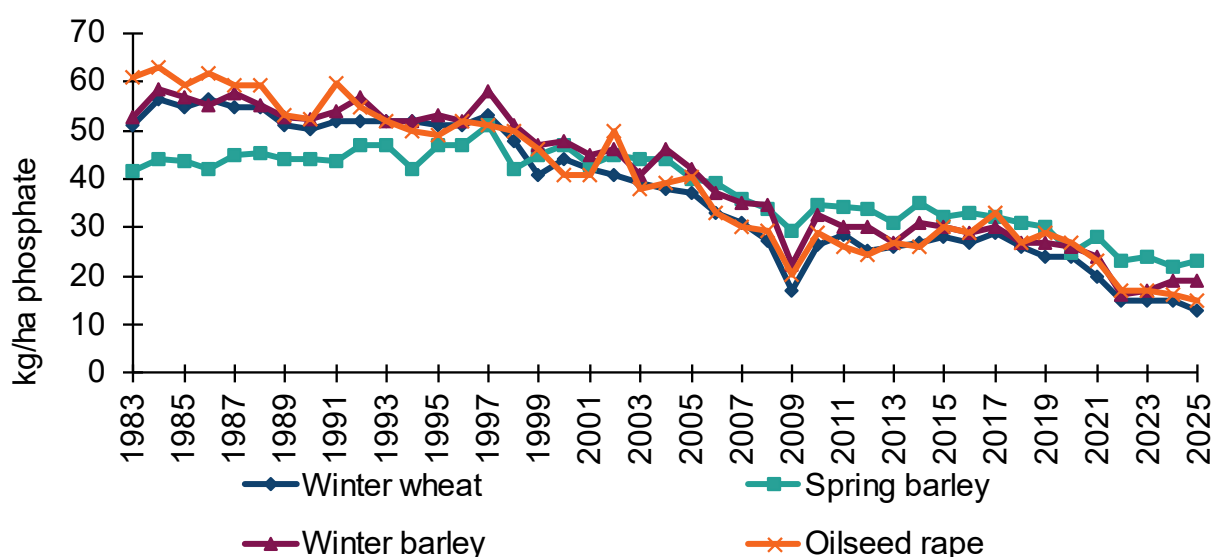


Figure A2.5b Overall application rates (kg/ha) of potash, on major arable crops, Great Britain 1983 – 2025

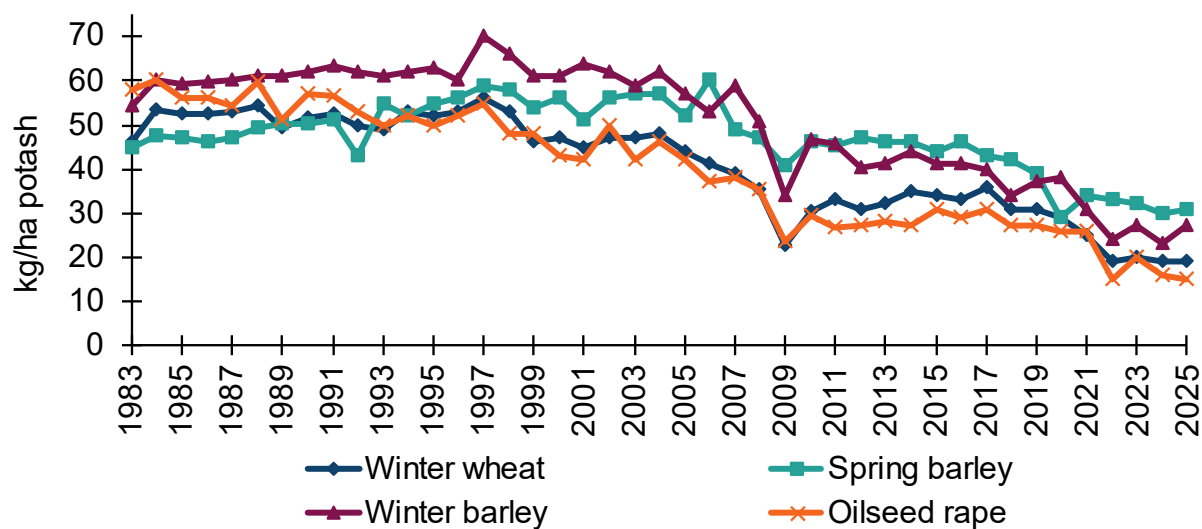


Figure A2.5c Overall application rates (kg/ha) of sulphur (SO_3) on major arable crops, Great Britain 1993 – 2025

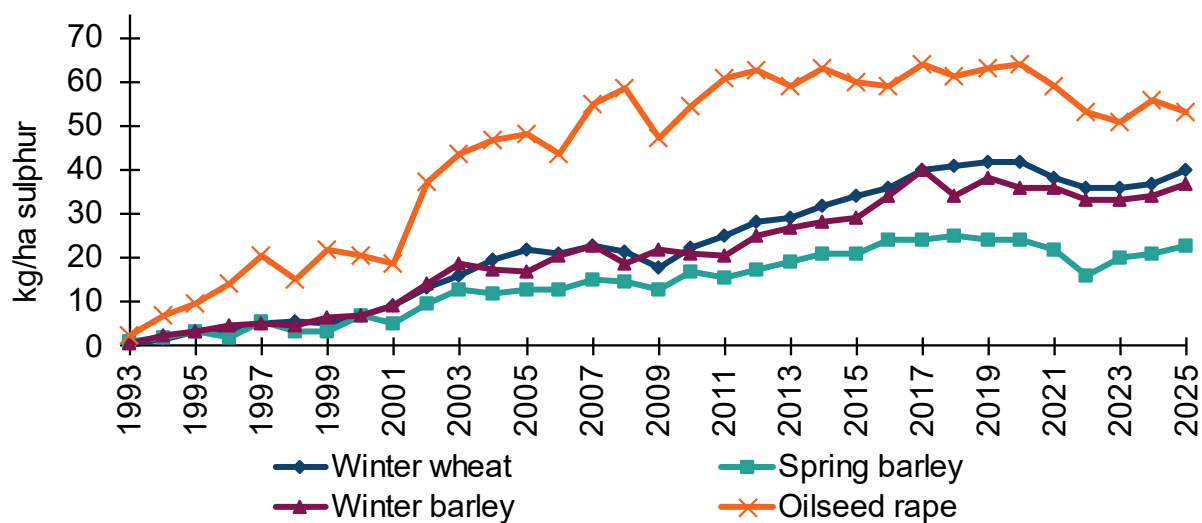
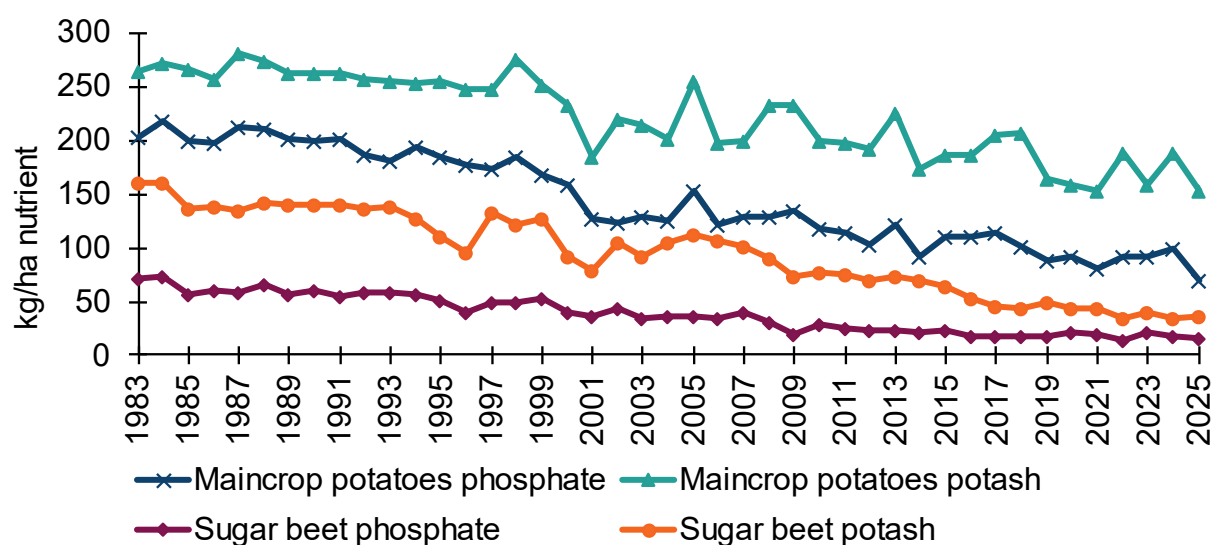


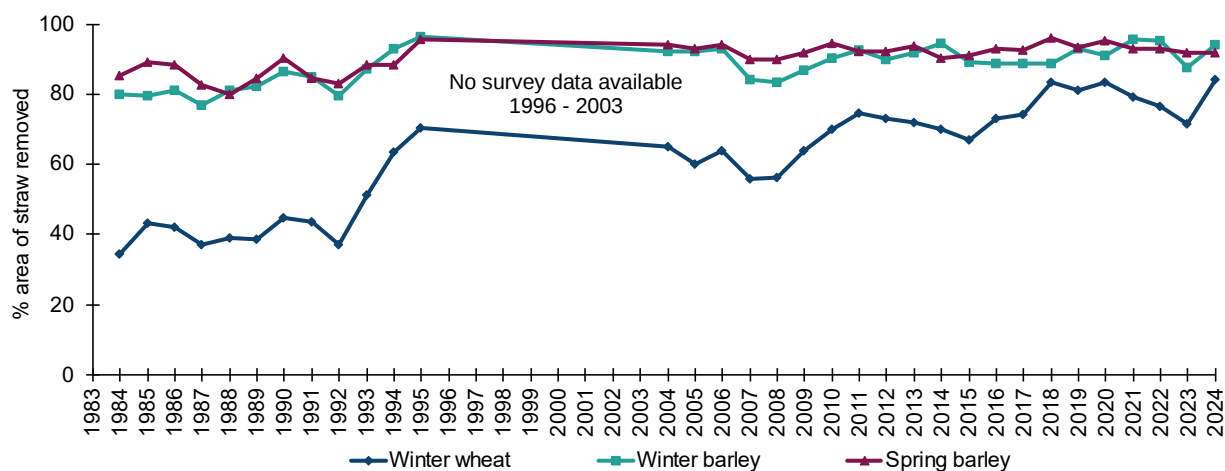
Figure A2.5d Overall application rates (kg/ha) of phosphate and potash on sugar beet and potatoes, Great Britain 1983 – 2025



A2.3 LONGER TERM TRENDS IN STRAW REMOVAL, FROM 1984

Estimates of the percentage of straw removed from wheat and barley fields are shown in Figure A2.6. Wheat and barley straw contain a significant quantity of nutrients, especially potash. The removal of straw from the field after harvest also removes these nutrients, which would otherwise be returned to the soil when the straw is incorporated. These straws contain on average 1.2-1.5 kg P₂O₅ (phosphate) per tonne, and 9.5-12.5 kg K₂O (potash) per tonne, and it is estimated that for every tonne of cereal grain harvested, 0.5 tonnes of straw can be baled and removed from the field. Thus, the removal of wheat or barley straw will increase the removal of phosphate by about 10% more than if the grain alone were removed, while the amount of potash removed would be approximately doubled.

Figure A2.6 Percentage of straw removed from wheat and barley fields, England & Wales crop years 1984 – 1995, Great Britain crop years 2004 – 2024



Data collected as part of the 2025 Survey related to the fate of the straw from the 2024 harvest so is reported against 2024. In 2024, 84% of the winter wheat straw was removed from the fields, with the percentages for winter and spring barley higher still at 94% and 92% respectively.

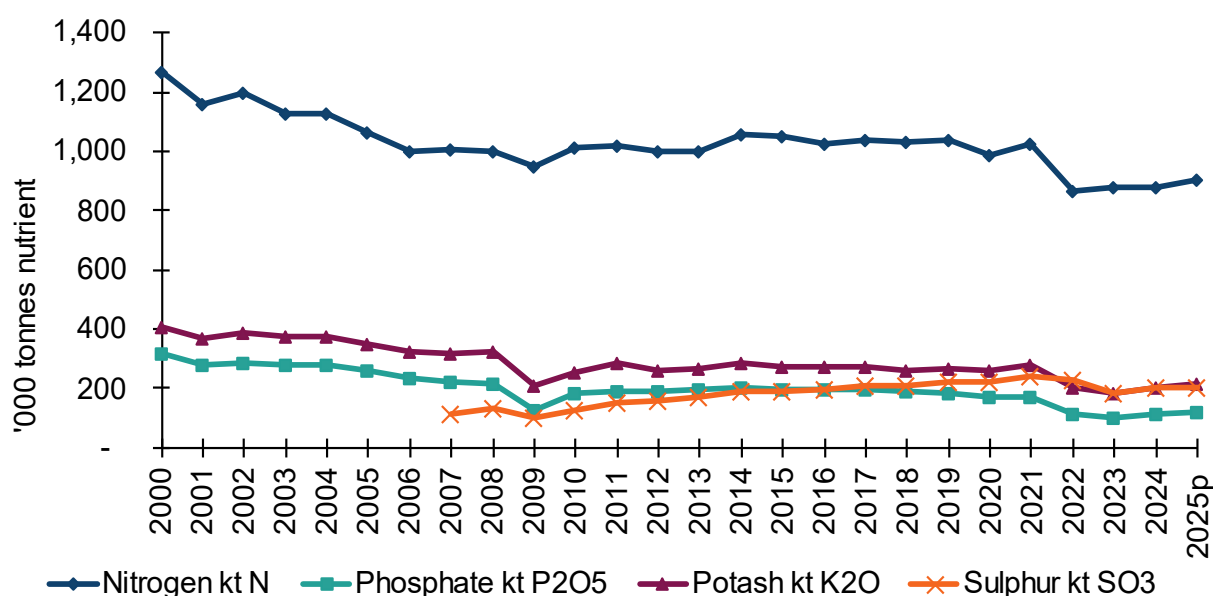
Data for the period 1984-95 were sourced from MAFF/Defra straw disposal surveys, those for the period 2004-21 from this Survey. No data are available for the period 1996-2003. The straw burning ban was introduced in 1993. This resulted in a significant increase in the percentage of straw removed, up to 63% and 93% for wheat and barley respectively, for the 1994 harvest (Table A2.3).

A2.4 TOTAL QUANTITIES OF NITROGEN, PHOSPHATE, POTASH AND SULPHUR USED IN THE UK

Estimates of quantities of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur used in the UK since 2003 are illustrated in Figure A2.7. Longer term data, since 2000, can be located in Appendix table AA1.7; nutrient consumption from 1966 is available in the separate BSFP Dataset. These data are based on BSFP findings and trade and sales data. They are compiled by the AIC in conjunction with Defra using the methodology described in Appendix 3.2.5. Users should note that these figures relate also to the whole of the UK, whereas the other figures presented in this report relate just to Great Britain.

Total nitrogen use in the UK increased from 590 thousand tonnes in 1966 up to 1,674 thousand tonnes in 1987 before declining gradually to 1,001 thousand tonnes in 2008. The drop in 2009 was related to high fertiliser prices. Between 2010 and 2019 nitrogen use has remained relatively stable. The reduction in nitrogen use observed in 2020 was related to weather and cropping factors. From the peak in 1987, UK nitrogen use since has fallen by nearly 50%. Estimated nitrogen use in 2024 increased slightly on the previous year, to 872 thousand tonnes. Use continued to recover in 2025, to 904 thousand tonnes.

Figure A2.7 Quantities of major nutrients used, United Kingdom 2000 – 2025



Phosphate use in the UK has fallen since the mid-1980s but since 2007 this decline has slowed. The low use of 129 thousand tonnes in 2009 was price related. Between 2010 and 2019 total phosphate use was more stable, between 184 and 201 thousand tonnes. Results for 2020 and 2021 showed a further reduction of this nutrient, (174 thousand tonnes of phosphate was used in 2020). At this level of usage volumes were only 40% of the annual average used between 1966 and 1995. Usage dropped to the lowest recorded levels in 2022 and 2023, driven by high

fertiliser prices before recovering slightly in 2024. This continued into 2025, albeit slightly, increasing by 2 thousand tonnes on the year, to 118 thousand tonnes. A softening of pricing and supply challenges from the year earlier helped to drive this recovery.

Potash use in the UK was highest in the mid-1980s through to 1999, after which there has been a sustained decline. Like phosphate, potash use in 2022 recorded a steeper decline, as a result of high prices, following a decade of reasonable stability. This reduced further in 2023 to 184 thousand tonnes. During 2025, potash use continued to recover, as noted in 2024, increasing to 217 thousand tonnes. As with phosphate, an easing in global price increases and reduction in supply issues were key drivers of this recovery.

Between 2009 and 2021, sulphur use recorded a steady increase, reaching highs of 239 thousand tonnes in 2021. This growth was reversed in the subsequent two years, with usage levels of 182 thousand tonnes reported in 2023, the lowest usage volume since 2014. After increasing in 2024, Sulphur use stabilised in 2025, at 204 thousand tonnes. However, this is still the second lowest volume in the last nine years.

SECTION B

USE OF ORGANIC MANURES – GREAT BRITAIN, 2025

Whilst the BSFP has focused historically on the application of manufactured fertilisers, in the last 15 years it has also collected increasingly detailed information on the use of organic manures. In previous years, farmers were asked where their manure applications fell within pre-specified 'high', 'medium' and 'low' ranges. From 2007, and to better quantify the organic manure data, farmers were asked to provide a specific rate of application which could then be weighted in the same way as the manufactured fertiliser data to deliver a national picture of organic manure usage. However, users should note that the underlying sample design is constructed to measure manufactured fertiliser usage and may not represent the population of farmers using organic manures as robustly.

In this chapter, data on slurries have been collected in cubic metres (m³) and data on solid manures have been collected in tonnes. For the purpose of analysis and presentation, one cubic metre of slurry has been assumed to have the mass of one tonne.

B1 FARMS HANDLING ORGANIC MANURES

Organic manures applied to agricultural land may be produced on farm by livestock as slurries, farmyard manure (FYM) and poultry manures, or imported from other sources such as treated sewage sludges (also called bio-solids) and some industrial 'wastes' such as compost, paper waste or brewery effluent.

Table B1.1a Numbers and percentage (%) of farms applying each type of manure in Great Britain, 2025

	Count of farms in Survey	% of farms in population	Total manure quantity* Mt; Mm ³	% of total quantity of all manure
No manure	397	36%	[z]	[z]
Any form of manure	910	64%	95	100%
Farm manure types				
Cattle FYM	662	48%	39	41%
Cattle slurry	234	16%	39	41%
Pig FYM	37	2%	2	2%
Pig slurry	15	1%	1	1%
Layer manure	23	1%	0	0%
Broiler/ turkey litter	33	1%	0	0%
Other farm manure	57	5%	2	2%
Non-farm manure type				
Digestate	56	2%	6	7%
Biosolids	50	2%	3	3%
Compost	15	1%	1	1%
Other non-farm	4	[c]	[c]	[c]

Note: some farmers may use more than one type of manure.

* Mt (million tonnes) relates to solid manures; Mm³ (million cubic metres) to liquid manures.

Of the 1,307 farms in the 2025 Survey, 910 used organic manures on at least one field on the farm, representing 64% of the Survey population. The details are shown in Table B1.1a.

Table B1.1b Percentage (%) of farms applying each type of manure in Great Britain, 2021 – 2025

Manure type being applied	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	% farms	% farms	% farms	% farms	% farms
No manure	35.1	33.1	36.4	36.9	35.5
Cattle FYM	49.0	50.9	47.1	45.8	48.5
Cattle slurry	17.6	16.5	16.7	16.7	15.9
Pig FYM	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7
Pig slurry	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7
Layer manure	0.8	2.0	1.2	0.7	1.1
Broiler/ Turkey litter	2.6	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.3
Other farm manure	5.6	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.3
Digestate	[x]	[x]	2.4	2.9	2.2
Biosolids	[x]	[x]	1.5	1.9	2.1
Compost	[x]	[x]	0.7	0.9	0.8
Other non-farm manure	4.4	7.2	0.2	0.1	0.2

Notes: Prior to 2023, 'Digestate', 'Biosolids', and 'Compost' were in 'Other non-farm manure'.
Prior to 2023, 'Other FYM' was reported separately from 'Other farm manure'.

Cattle manure from beef and dairy farms is by far the largest volume of manure type generated in Great Britain. The percentage of farms using cattle FYM and cattle slurry was reasonably consistent over the last 5 years with use in 2025 being 49% and 16% of farms, respectively. Digestate was presented as a category for the first time in 2023 and was used by 2% of farms in 2025.

Table B1.1c Dressing cover (%) of organic manure in Great Britain, 2015 – 2025

	Winter wheat	Spring barley	Winter oilseed rape	Sugar beet	Maize	All crops	Grass under 5 years	Grass 5 years & over	All grass	All crops and grass
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2015	21	26	17	54	89	23	53	29	33	29
2016	19	31	20	41	95	23	48	31	34	29
2017	22	31	18	46	82	25	46	31	34	30
2018	25	30	24	46	88	27	52	33	37	32
2019	24	29	23	38	85	26	48	34	36	42
2020	24	27	24	36	85	25	51	32	35	31
2021	23	31	32	35	79	26	55	34	37	32
2022	24	35	31	34	85	28	52	35	37	33
2023	22	33	28	23	87	27	57	32	36	32
2024	23	28	31	32	87	27	48	33	35	31
2025	27	26	36	40	81	29	47	35	37	33

Dressing cover of organic manure on crops averaged 27% in the five-year period 2021-2025, compared with 25% for the previous five-year period. The proportions of both categories of grass receiving a dressing of manure were higher than crops in 2025 at 35% on grass 5 years and over and 47% on grass under 5 years old. This was consistently higher than 'all crops' over the five years displayed in table B1.1c.

Not all the manure generated by a farm is necessarily retained for use on that farm and excess manure/slurry can be exported for use elsewhere. Up to the 2013 Survey, the report included data on the quantities of manure which were imported onto farm or exported from farms and the number of farms involved. However these were all consistently very low and led to the conclusion that this activity was too small to be of significance or to provide robust data, resulting in collection of these data being discontinued (see 2013 BSFP report, Tables D1.2, D1.3a&b)⁴.

The percentage of farms that used each type of slurry application method in Great Britain are shown in Table B1.2. This table takes account of all applications whether they are made by the farmers themselves or contractors. These data represent the number of farms rather than volume or area. Band-trailing hose became the most widespread method on cropped fields for the first time in 2024. This was a change from 2023, when broadcasting was the prevalent method of application. Farms spreading cattle slurry on cropped fields, by far the largest slurry type by volume, decreased from 72% in 2023 to 42% broadcast in 2024 and 2025. Broadcast remained the most widespread method on grass fields as shown in Table B1.2b, at 59% of farms.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fertiliser-usage>

Table B1.2a Application methods used by farms applying slurry to cropped fields, Great Britain 2025 Percentages represent number of farms.

Application method* on cropped fields	Slurry type			Total farms applying slurry or digestate
	Farms applying cattle slurry	Farms applying pig slurry	Farms applying digestate	
Broadcast	43%	23%	45%	42%
Band – trailing hose	43%	57%	41%	43%
Band – trailing shoe	9%	20%	11%	10%
Shallow injected	5%	0%	6%	5%
Deep injected	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other surface application**	2%	0%	3%	2%
Non-broadcast***	58%	77%	60%	60%
Number of farms in sample*	68	10	48	126

Notes: Grass fields have been excluded from this table.

* Farms may use more than one application method and may apply more than one slurry type.

** Other surface application methods include by rain gun and by rotating boom.

*** Non broadcast includes band-trailing hose, band trailing shoe, shallow and deep injected.

Table B1.2b Application methods used by farms applying slurry to grassland, Great Britain 2026. Percentages represent number of farms.

Application method* on grassland	Slurry type			Total farms applying slurry or digestate
	Farms applying cattle slurry	Farms applying pig slurry	Farms applying digestate	
Broadcast	61%	49%	29%	59%
Band – trailing hose	31%	74%	56%	33%
Band – trailing shoe	6%	0%	9%	6%
Shallow injected	3%	0%	3%	3%
Deep injected	1%	0%	0%	1%
Other surface application**	2%	0%	3%	2%
Non-broadcast***	43%	74%	71%	45%
Number of farms in sample*	217	7	20	243

Notes: Cropped (non-grass) fields have been excluded from this table

* Farms may use more than one application method and may apply more than one slurry type.

** Other surface application methods include by rain gun and by rotating boom.

*** Non broadcast includes band-trailing hose, band trailing shoe, shallow and deep injected.

Whilst some of these application methods (e.g. shallow injection or deep injection) apply slurry below the surface of the field, the majority require secondary cultivation to incorporate the manure/slurry into the soil. Assessment of how often organic manures are incorporated into the soil is complicated by the fact that some farmers make more than one application or apply more than one type of manure and may incorporate each of these differently. As manure on grass fields is seldom incorporated (unless by injection or they are destined for re-seeding), grass fields have been excluded from the incorporation analysis.

Table B1.3 gives estimates of the volume and area of manure/slurry incorporation on cropping fields by manure type and immediacy of incorporation. Farmyard manure is the most extensively incorporated at 91% of the volume applied, with 85% of it incorporated within a week of spreading on cropping fields. Some of the slurries or digestate that are shown as being 'not incorporated' could have been applied using a trailing hose (or similar) system. This would provide mitigation of ammonia loss where it was not possible to incorporate, for example when applied to winter cropped fields in the spring.

Table B1.3 Percentage (%) of organic manure incorporated (area and quantity) on cropping fields by incorporation time and manure/slurry type, Great Britain 2025

Manure type by area	Incorporation time after spreading					Total applied area and quantity '000 ha
	Not incorporated	Within 6 hours	Between 6 and 24 hours	Between 1 and 7 days	After more than 1 week	
	% of area	% of area	% of area	% of area	% of area	
FYM	8	8	46	30	7	802
Cattle slurry	32	8	30	19	12	117
Pig slurry	43	5	15	37	0	38
Poultry FYM	2	26	51	19	3	109
Digestate	41	23	27	8	2	156
Biosolids	4	30	48	12	6	134
Other	14	45	31	5	5	33
Total	14	14	42	24	6	1,390

by quantity	% of quantity	% of quantity	% of quantity	% of quantity	% of quantity	Mt; Mm ³
FYM	9	9	47	29	6	17.3
Cattle slurry	27	6	31	17	19	3.7
Pig slurry	46	5	11	38	0	1.0
Poultry FYM	1	23	53	20	3	0.7
Digestate	41	21	26	11	1	4.0
Biosolids	4	32	46	11	7	2.7
Other	9	46	34	6	4	1.2
Total	16	14	41	23	7	30.7

Farmers were asked to indicate what proportion of their livestock manures had been spread by a contractor (Table B1.4a). The percentage of farmers using a contractor to spread at least some of their FYM was 26% in 2025. Where contractors were used, they applied between 88% and 100% of the manure on average.

Table B1.4a Use of contractors (%) on farms applying manure to spread manures or slurry in current season, by main manure type, Great Britain 2025

Manure type	% of farms using a contractor for each manure type	% of each manure applied by contractor	% of each manure applied by contractor, where contractor is used
	%	%	%
FYM	26	23	92
Cattle slurry	38	41	88
Digestate	62	53	100
Other	49	47	94
Total	31	34	91

Use of contractors to spread manures was fairly consistent over the five-year period 2021-2025. An average of 30% of farms (Table B1.4b) used a contractor and they spread an average of 88% of the manure spread on those farms.

Table B1.4b Use of contractors (%) on farms applying manure to spread manures or slurry, Great Britain 2010 – 2025

	% of farms using a contractor	% of available manure applied by contractor	Average % of manure applied by contractor, where contractor is used
	%	%	%
2010	29	27	84
2011	28	29	86
2012	32	32	84
2013	30	30	88
2014	36	39	87
2015	34	33	89
2016	34	32	83
2017	33	30	92
2018	30	30	90
2019	30	29	90
2020	27	27	90
2021	29	28	88
2022	33	28	87
2023	27	25	86
2024	30	34	90
2025	31	34	91

Historical note: Over four seasons between 2015 and 2019, excluding 2017, the Survey collected data on the periods of storage, and the months of establishment and spreading of manure stored in field heaps. The results seen from these data were considered to be sufficiently indicative of the timings and use of outdoor manure storage that they provided adequate information without the need for continuing collection of these data. The results are available in the relevant previous editions of the Survey⁵.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fertiliser-usage>

B2 USE OF ORGANIC MANURES

Recent and current fertiliser recommendations are consistent in their advice to farmers to take note of the nutrient contributions from manures when calculating fertiliser input requirements. When making comparisons of the data presented in this report several factors should be considered:

- the extent to which individual farmers have accounted for the nutrients in the manures cannot be judged from these data,
- the data presented for 'with/without' manure are not a paired comparison of otherwise identical fields,
- fields which have not received manures may be on farms which have no manure and are thus managed in a different way,
- in grassland systems, fields which have not received manures may be managed differently (e.g. grazed only) compared with manured fields which may be cut more than once as well as grazed,
- for crops, the overall application rate for manufactured fertiliser is likely, by definition, to include some fields which have received no manufactured fertiliser. For the corresponding 'with manure' data, it may indicate that the manure applied was judged to supply all the nutrients required,
- for grassland, the average field rate for manufactured fertiliser has been used to avoid distorting the data by inclusion of 'unmanaged' grass, which receives no manufactured fertiliser. However, this has the effect of excluding any managed fields on which no manufactured fertiliser was applied because the manure was considered sufficient, thus obscuring any substitution effect,
- the dataset of fields where manures are used includes fields which may have received only a very small amount of manure (see section B3). On those fields receiving large dressings, there may be a greater adjustment in mineral fertiliser,
- where reductions in phosphate and potash fertiliser have not been made despite an application of manure, this may indicate a desire to build up low soil reserves of these nutrients.

The proportion of the sown area, of all crops plus grassland, receiving each of the main types of manure is shown in Table B2.1a, with cattle FYM and cattle slurry being the most extensively applied manures.

Table B2.1a Percentage (%) of sown area (all crops and grass) that received each organic manure type, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Manure type	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
Cattle FYM	16.4	17.1	15.9	15.1	18.1
Cattle slurry	9.3	8.6	9.0	8.3	7.6
Pig FYM	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8
Pig slurry	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Layer hen manure	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Broiler/turkey litter	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.6
Other farm manure	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Digestate	[x]	[x]	1.5	2.0	2.0
Biosolids	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.3
Other non-farm	1.4	2.2	0.5	0.3	0.4

Note: some areas may have received more than one type of manure in a single year.
Prior to 2023 digestate was included with 'Other non-farm' manures.

The percentage of the sown area that received an application of cattle FYM in 2025 was 18.1%, which is slightly above the five-year average (16.5%).

Table B2.1b Percentage (%) distribution of each organic manure type on all manured crops and grass area, Great Britain 2021 - 2025

Manure type	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
Cattle FYM	54.5	54.5	55.0	53.9	59.5
Cattle slurry	31.1	27.4	31.0	29.5	24.9
Pig FYM	2.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.7
Pig slurry	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.1
Layer hen manure	1.2	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.4
Broiler/ turkey litter	3.5	4.2	2.9	3.1	2.0
Other farm manure	4.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.6
Digestate	[x]	[x]	5.2	7.0	6.4
Biosolids	4.5	5.1	3.9	4.3	4.3
Other non-farm	4.6	7.2	1.7	1.2	1.2

Note: Some areas may have received more than one type of manure in a single year.
Prior to 2023 digestate was included with 'Other non-farm' manures.

The levels of nutrient in organic manures vary according to which type of manure is being applied as well as factors such as the size, age, gender, and market for the animals that produced it. Furthermore, the concentration of nutrients is dependent on the proportion of incorporated bedding, the length of time that the manure has been stored and, in the case of slurries particularly, diluting factors such as rainwater or dirty water which affect the proportion of dry matter. The BSFP does not ask detailed questions on the animals producing manures or the nutrient analysis of any organic applications made, but it is possible to use typical values for different manure types to estimate the *likely* nutrient levels delivered. Details of these values are given in Table B2.2.

Table B2.2 Typical dry matter % and related nutrient content in the fresh weight of common organic manure types

Manure type (RB209 categories)	Dry matter %	Total N kg/t; kg/m ³	Total P ₂ O ₅ kg/t; kg/m ³	Total K ₂ O kg/t; kg/m ³
Cattle FYM	25.0%	6.0	3.2	9.4
Pig FYM	25.0%	7.0	6.0	8.0
Sheep FYM	25.0%	7.0	3.2	8.0
Duck FYM	25.0%	6.5	5.5	7.5
Layer hen manure	40.0%	19.0	12.0	15.0
Poultry litter	60.0%	28.0	17.0	21.0
Cattle slurry	6.0%	2.6	1.2	2.5
Pig slurry	4.0%	3.6	1.5	2.2
Biosolids: Digested cake	25.0%	11.0	11.0	0.6
Biosolids: Thermally dried	95.0%	40.0	55.0	2.0
Biosolids: Lime stabilised	25.0%	8.5	7.0	0.8
Biosolids: Composted	40.0%	11.0	10.0	3.0
Digestate, food-based, whole	4.1%	4.8	1.1	2.4
Digestate, farm-sourced, whole	5.5%	3.6	1.7	4.4
Compost, green	60.0%	7.5	3.0	6.8
Compost, green/food	60.0%	11.0	4.9	8.0

In Tables B2.3 and B2.3b, crops receiving manure applications have been classified as either “winter-sown”, “spring-sown” or “grass” and their average treated areas and manure application rates shown.

Table B2.3a Treated areas and average field rates of manure applied to winter-sown and spring-sown crops and to grassland, by manure type, Great Britain 2025

	Manure type									
	Cattle FYM	Cattle slurry	Pig FYM	Pig slurry	Layer manure	Broiler/turkey litter	Other farm manure	Digestate	Bio solids	Other non-farm
Winter sown										
% total area with manure*	12.7%	1.2%	2.0%	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%	0.5%	4.2%	4.2%	0.8%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	327	32	53	23	34	45	13	110	109	20
Average field rate (t; m ³ /ha)	20	21	21	29	7	6	19	24	19	33
Quantity (Mt; Mm ³)**	6.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.6	2.1	0.7
Fields in Survey	289	35	25	13	18	31	11	88	39	16
Spring sown										
% total area with manure*	21.8%	5.0%	1.6%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	2.5%	1.5%	0.7%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	366	85	27	14	10	19	13	42	26	11
Average field rate (t; m ³ /ha)	23	35	27	24	5	6	23	29	23	36
Quantity (Mt; Mm ³)**	8.3	3.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.6	0.4
Fields in Survey	373	77	20	5	12	16	23	35	21	11
Grass										
% total area with manure*	27.2%	24.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	[c]	2.0%	1.9%	0.3%	0.2%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	1,559	1,427	13	13	5	[c]	115	109	15	12
Average field rate (t; m ³ /ha)	15	25	6	26	7	[c]	12	20	19	23
Quantity (Mt; Mm ³)**	23.5	35.5	0.1	0.3	0.0	[c]	1.4	2.2	0.3	0.3
Fields in Survey	653	418	5	9	5	3	38	43	11	5

Notes: This table excludes crops that cannot be classified as either winter or spring-sown, such as permanent crops.

* Some fields may receive more than one type of manure

** Mt (million tonnes) relates to solid manures; Mm³ (million cubic metres) to liquid manures.

The majority of cattle manure and slurry applications were made to grassland, reflecting the practice of utilising the manure within the farm on which it is produced. Cattle slurry makes up 84% of all slurry volume (Table B2.3a) and 91% of cattle slurry was applied to grassland. Of the balance, the majority of cattle slurry applied to cropping fields is applied to spring-sown

crops (Table B2.4). Data on pig slurry need to be treated with caution due to the relatively low number of farms using manure of this type. Conversely, whilst non-farm manures such as biosolids appear to be favoured on winter-sown cropping land it is notable that a proportion was applied to spring-sown crops. Overall, the 2025 profiles of the % treated area and average manure rates were broadly similar to those reported for 2024.

Table B2.3b Summary of land treated with cattle FYM, by broad crop group and Robust type, Great Britain 2025

Land treated with cattle FYM	BSFP Robust type category*					
	Cereals	Dairy	General cropping	Mixed	Other grazing livestock	All farm types***
Winter sown crops						
% of total treated area	35.6%	6.8%	18.0%	29.6%	8.6%	100.0%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	116	22	59	97	28	327
Average field rate (t/ha)	21	19	18	22	20	20
Quantity (Mt)**	2.4	0.4	1.1	2.1	0.6	6.7
Fields in survey	72	33	30	100	50	289
Spring sown crops						
% of total treated area	19.9%	18.1%	23.4%	18.1%	20.2%	100.0%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	73	66	86	66	74	366
Average field rate (t/ha)	21	28	23	22	20	23
Quantity (Mt)**	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.5	8.6
Fields in survey	52	78	53	79	110	373
Grass						
% of total treated area	1.0%	14.0%	5.5%	3.7%	75.9%	100.0%
Total treated area ('000 ha)	15	219	85	57	1,183	1,559
Average field rate (t/ha)	16	15	24	14	14	15
Quantity (Mt)**	0.2	3.4	2.1	0.8	17.0	23.5
Fields in survey	8	69	24	35	517	653

Notes: Only cattle FYM was applied in sufficient volume to warrant reporting by farm type.

* For Robust types see Appendix 5.

** Mt = million tonnes.

*** Percent of total treated areas may not sum to 100% because possible applications to Pig and Poultry Robust types are not included.

Table B2.3b shows a breakdown of the cattle FYM applications by farm type. Cereal farms account for the largest proportion of winter sown crop area treated with cattle FYM at 35.6%. For grass 75.9% of the area treated with cattle FYM was on 'Other grazing livestock' Robust type farms.

The time of year when manure was applied is shown in Table B2.4 as a proportion of fields receiving manure applications. Once again, the crops have been classified as either "winter sown", "spring sown" or "grass". This segmentation highlights the importance of different periods through the year for organic manure applications. Whilst there are variations between manure types, the applications that in general made the biggest contributions to the overall manure type

totals were early autumn applications on winter-sown crops, and spring and summer applications on both spring-sown crops and grass. When comparing percentage values of different manures, it is important to recognise the very different quantities involved, as indicated by the percentages of treated areas at the foot of the table.

Table B2.4 Percentage (%) of each organic manure type by broad crop group and application timing, Great Britain 2025

	Manure type									
	Cattle FYM	Cattle slurry	Pig FYM	Pig slurry	Layer manure	Broiler/turkey litter	Other farm manure	Digestate	Bio-solids	Other non-farm
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Winter sown crops										
August	4.5	0.3	22.0	8.2	21.6	18.6	3.1	8.1	37.6	13.3
September	7.7	1.1	26.8	2.2	35.3	42.4	4.7	11.4	22.1	19.1
October	1.6	0.3	7.9	0.0	8.4	0.0	2.0	1.6	8.1	10.6
Nov to Jan	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Feb to Apr	0.6	0.8	0.0	35.8	0.0	1.2	0.3	20.3	2.8	0.0
May to Jul	0.3	0.0	0.0	4.3	3.8	3.1	0.0	3.6	2.2	4.1
Spring sown crops										
August	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
September	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.0
October	0.8	0.1	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.4	0.0
Nov to Jan	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Feb to Apr	13.3	4.7	19.7	13.2	18.9	17.0	6.3	13.6	11.9	26.2
May to Jul	0.7	1.3	0.0	6.4	2.4	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.9	0.0
Grass										
August	5.2	6.9	5.6	1.1	0.0	0.0	7.2	2.5	0.0	0.0
September	8.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.2	0.0	0.0	9.7
October	3.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nov to Jan	4.4	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Feb to Apr	33.9	43.6	7.2	24.0	6.4	3.8	38.2	21.9	2.7	7.3
May to Jul	12.8	31.1	1.0	3.2	3.2	1.3	17.9	13.3	7.4	9.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Relative quantity of each manure, by its proportional cover of total manured area.										
	50.5	30.4	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.6	3.1	5.7	3.5	1.0

**Figure B2.1 Percentage (%) of treated GB areas receiving manure by manure type
(3 year average 2023-2025)**

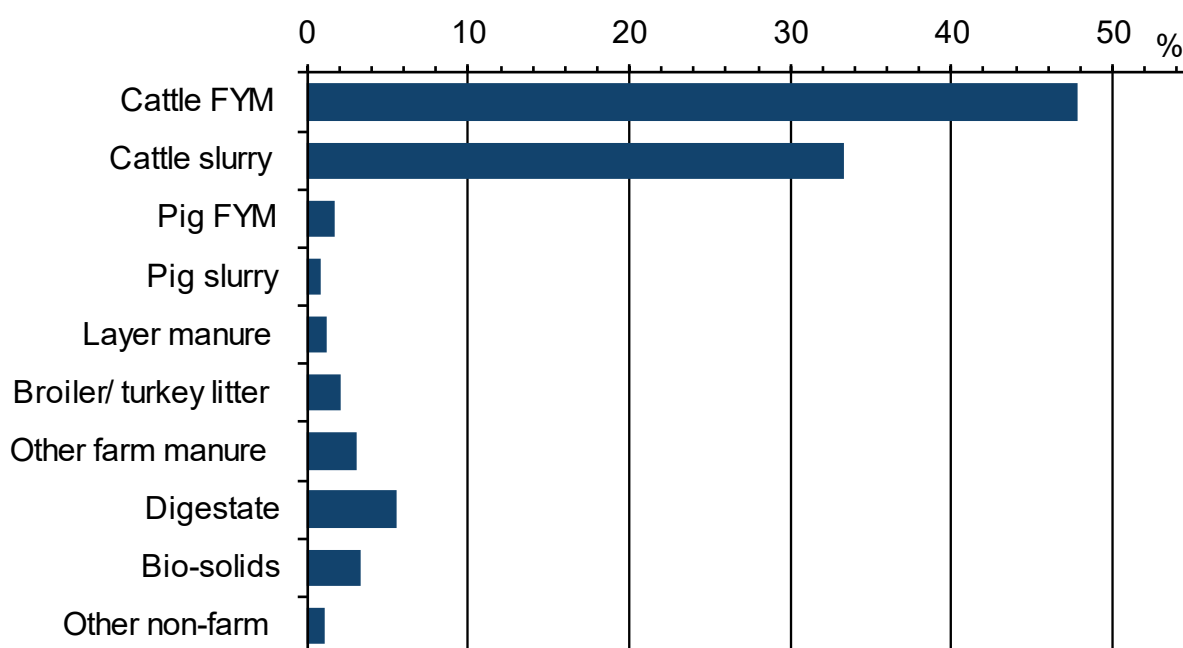


Figure B2.1 shows the relative volumes of different types of organic manure used in Great Britain. Cattle FYM and slurry supply the overwhelming majority of the area of British crops and grass receiving organic manures.

Figures B2.2a-j are derived from the three-year average of the 2023 to 2025 GB data presented in Table B2.4. The proportions of each of these manure types spread onto the winter-sown and spring-sown crops and onto grassland crop groups are shown, together with the timings of applications. It is important to note that the actual quantities of each manure available for spreading varies very significantly between manure types as illustrated in Figure B2.1. The proportion of the total available manure represented by each type is shown on the individual Figure B2.2 charts.

Figure B2.2a Typical timings and applications of cattle FYM on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

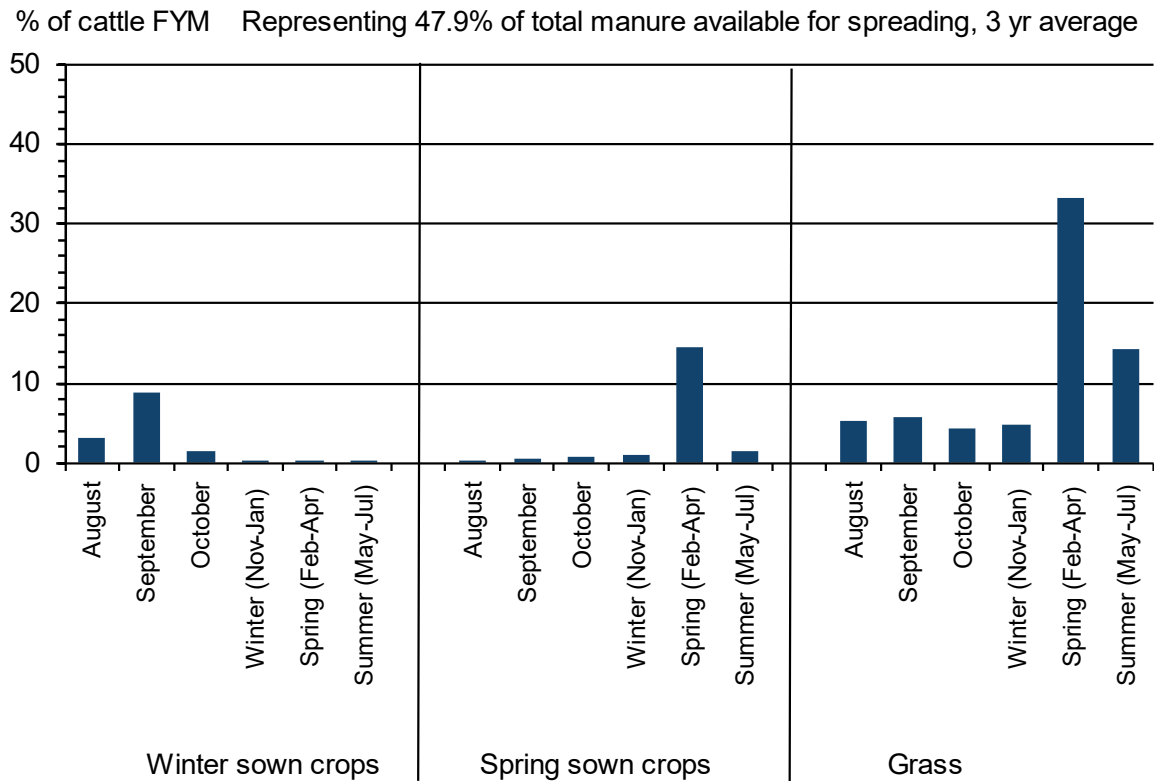


Figure B2.2b Typical timings and applications of cattle slurry on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

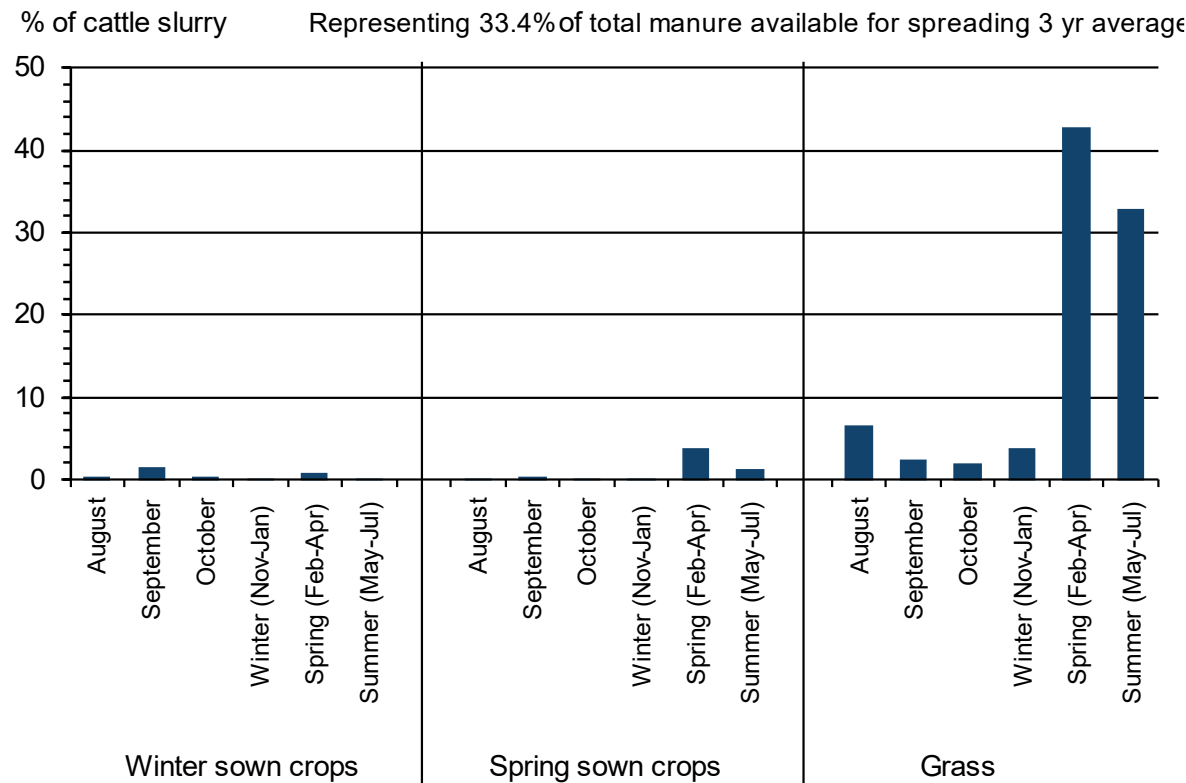


Figure B2.2c Typical timings and applications of pig FYM on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

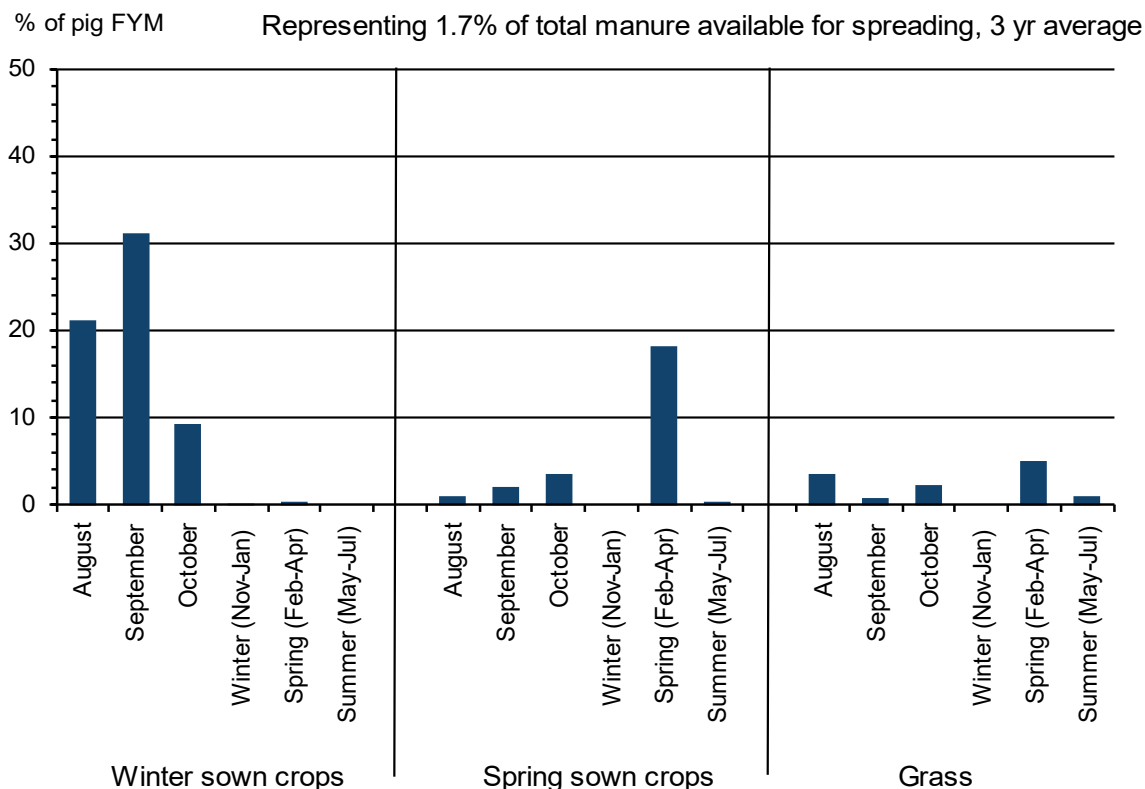


Figure B2.2d Typical timings and applications of pig slurry on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

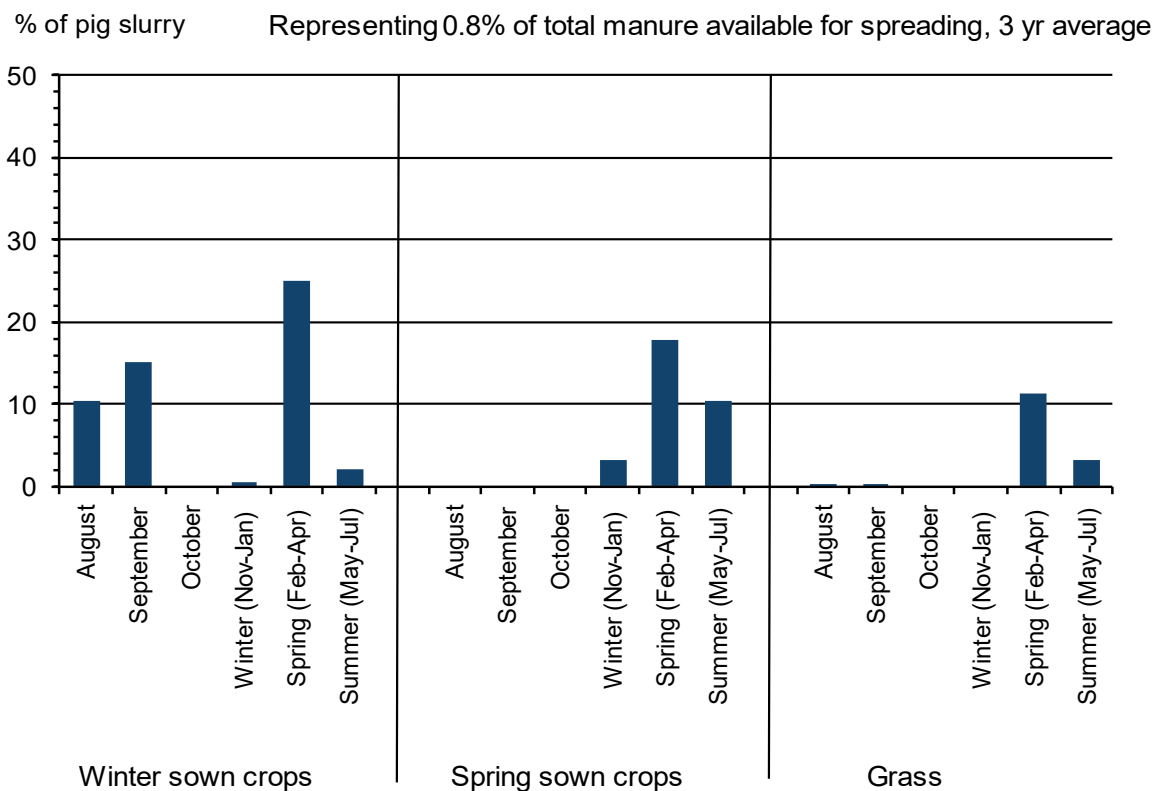


Figure B2.2e Typical timings and applications of layer manure on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

% of layer manure Representing 1.2% of total manure available for spreading, 3 yr average

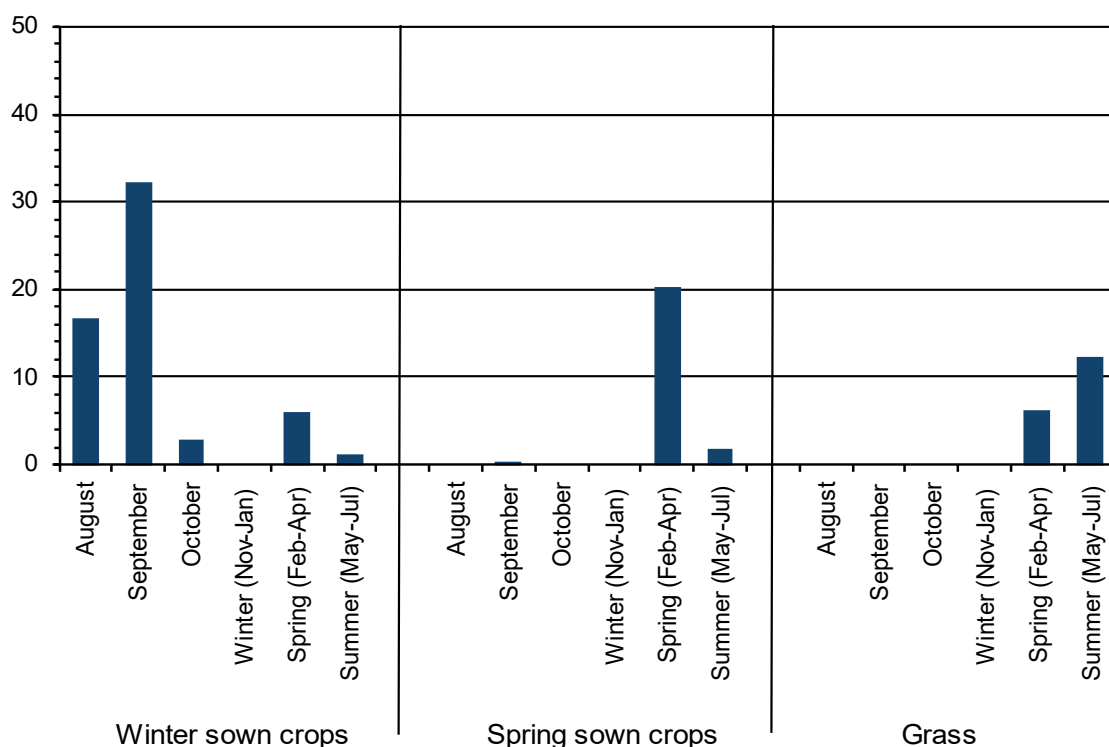


Figure B2.2f Typical timings and applications of poultry litter on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

% of poultry litter Representing 2.1% of total manure available for spreading, 3 yr average

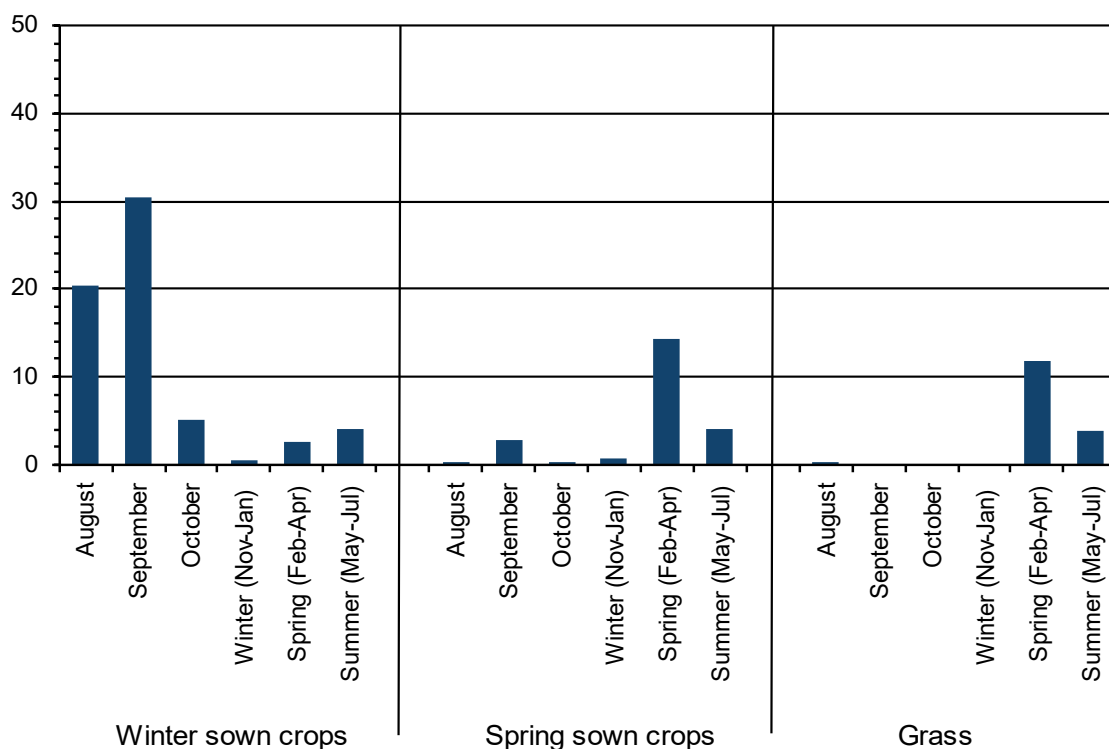


Figure B2.2g Typical timings and applications of biosolids on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

% of biosolids Representing 3.3% of total manure available for spreading, 3 yr average

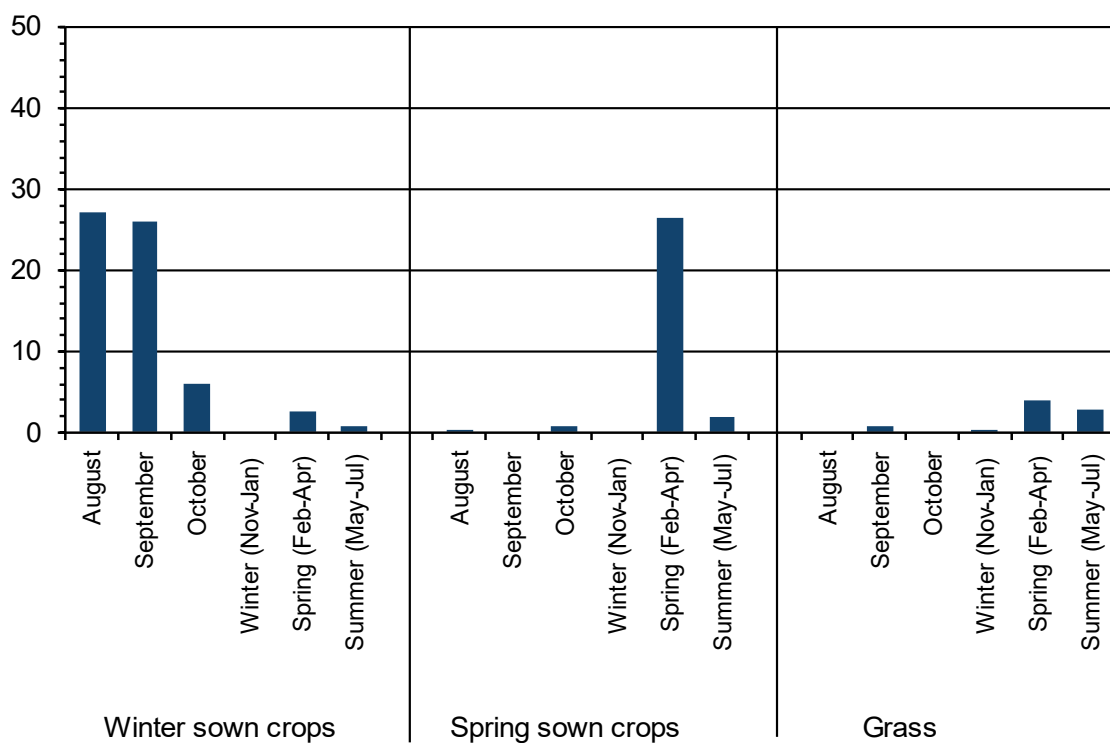


Figure B2.2h Typical timings and applications of digestate on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

% of digestate Representing 5.5% of total manure available for spreading, 3 yr average

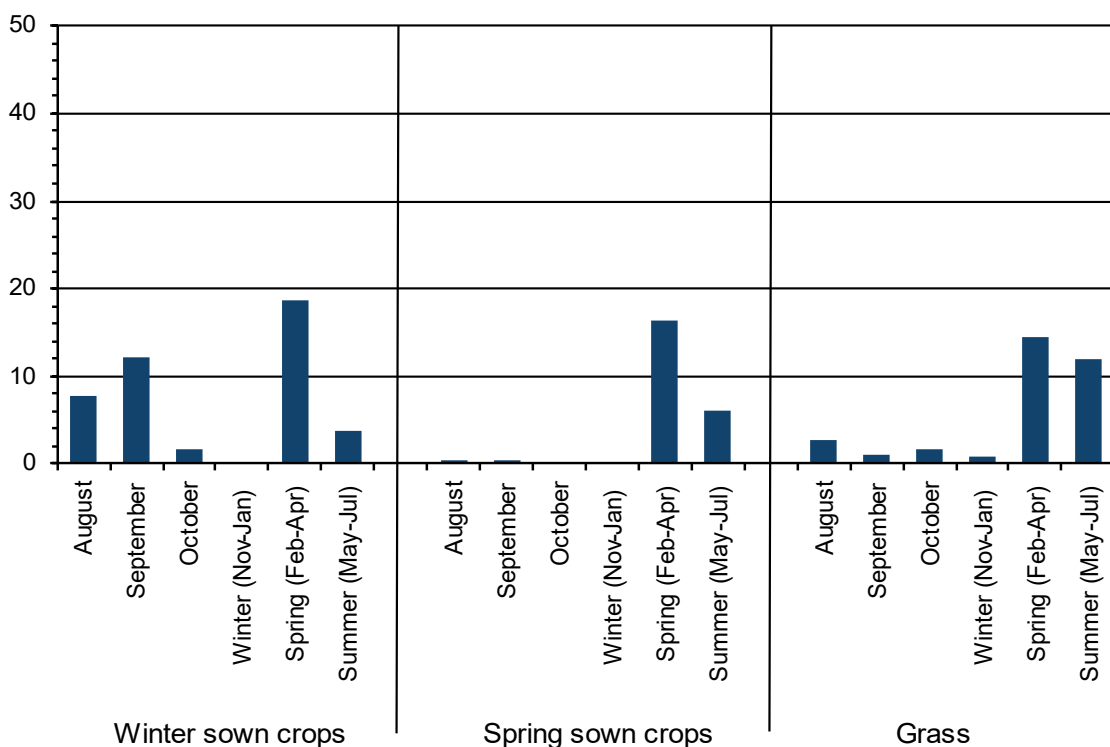


Figure B2.2i Typical timings and applications of other farm manure on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)

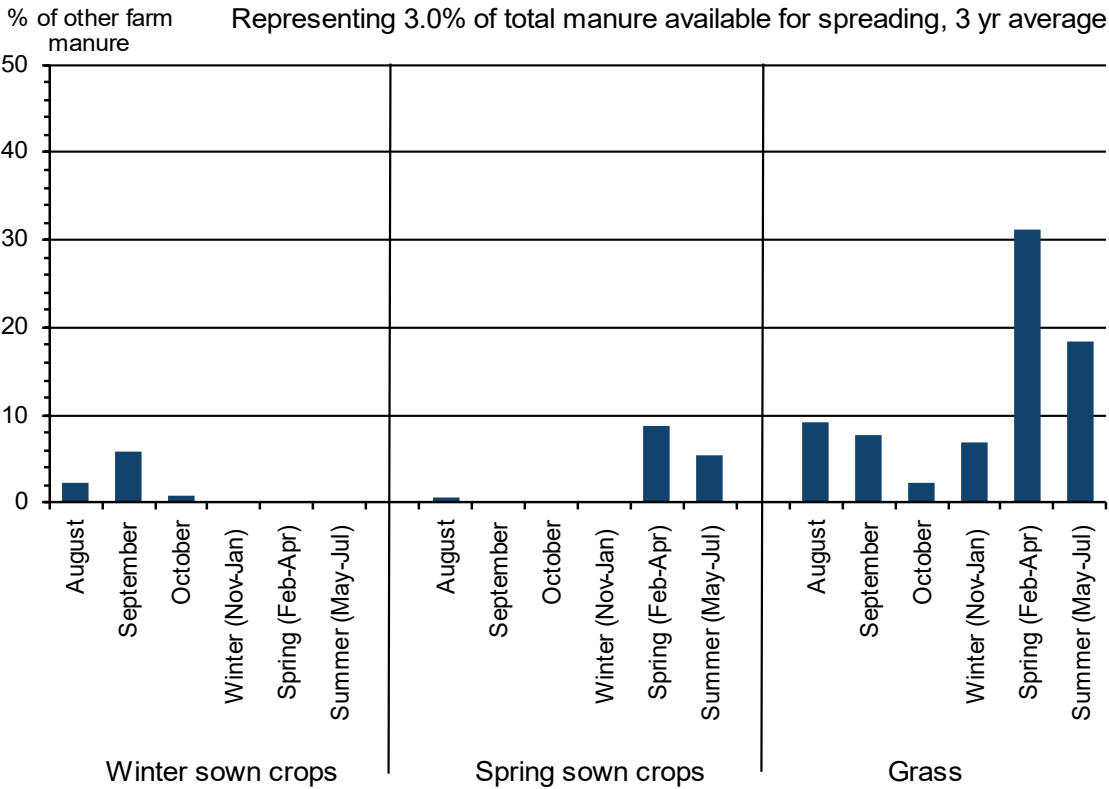
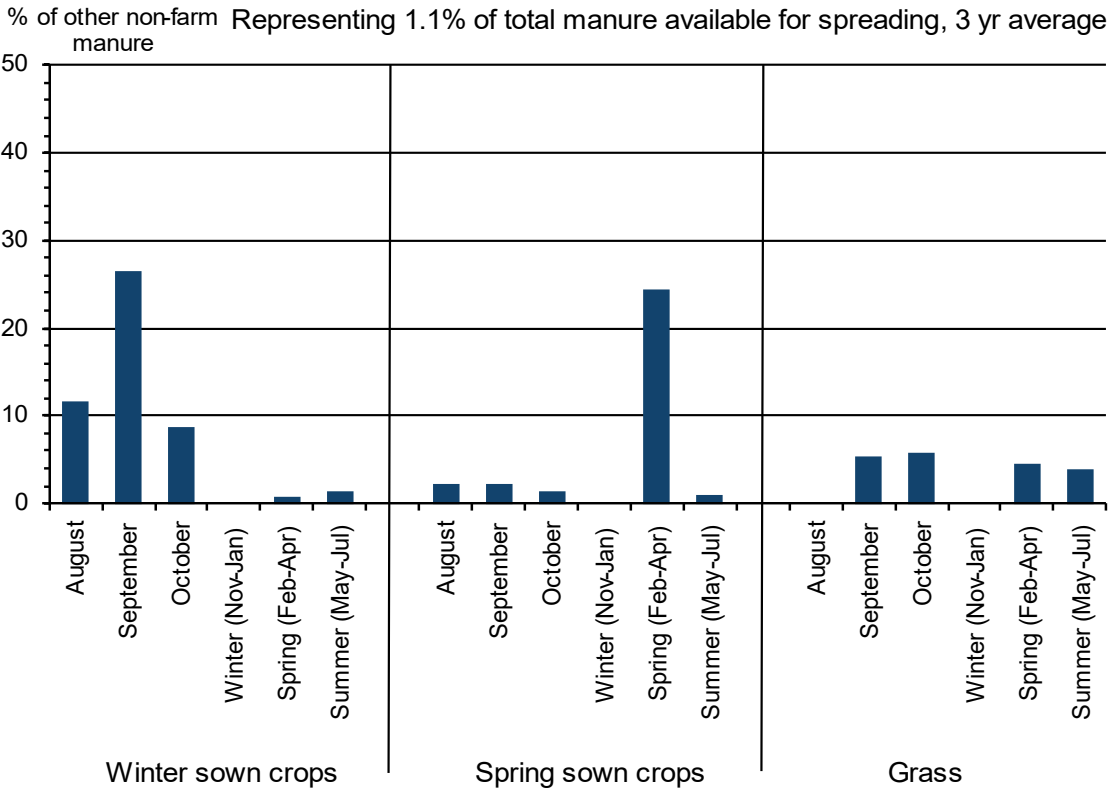


Figure B2.2j Typical timings and applications of other non-farm manure on GB winter and spring sown crops & grass (3 year average 2023-2025)



B3 Fertiliser value of organic manures

Organic manures are valuable recycled sources of the major plant nutrients nitrogen, phosphate, and potash and can theoretically allow applications of manufactured fertiliser to be reduced where organic manures are applied⁶. While the actual nutrient content of organic manure is rarely known, standard default values are shown in Table B2.2.

Table B3.1a Dressing cover (%) and application rates (kg/ha) of manufactured fertiliser to crops in Great Britain, with and without applications of organic manure, and showing the relevant number of fields in the Survey, 2025

Dressing cover (%)	Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Winter wheat	98	100	17	30	22	37	282	713
Spring barley	96	99	54	47	60	51	185	385
Winter barley	99	99	40	34	45	41	129	256
Potatoes (maincrop)	97	92	57	74	74	82	18	29
Sugar beet	80	87	12	41	42	63	26	38
Winter oilseed rape	99	99	12	35	16	39	76	137

Average field rate (kg/ha)	Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Winter wheat	171	184	49	51	60	59	282	713
Spring barley	89	106	48	47	64	56	185	385
Winter barley	136	153	52	53	62	64	129	256
Potatoes (maincrop)	125	135	99	102	195	194	18	29
Sugar beet	87	95	54	53	73	63	26	38
Winter oilseed rape	161	178	48	57	51	50	76	137

Overall application rate (kg/ha)	Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Winter wheat	168	183	8	15	13	22	282	713
Spring barley	86	105	26	23	38	29	185	385
Winter barley	134	151	21	18	28	27	129	256
Potatoes (maincrop)	122	123	57	76	145	160	18	29
Sugar beet	69	82	7	21	31	39	26	38
Winter oilseed rape	160	176	6	20	8	20	76	137

⁶ Anon. (2018). Nutrient Management Guide (RB209). Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). <https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209>

In the Survey, farmers were not asked directly whether they had made an adjustment to fertiliser inputs because of manure use. However, an indication of possible adjustments has been derived by comparing fields that received manure with those that did not. Fields used in organic production systems, which use no mineral fertilisers, have been excluded from these comparisons, since they would distort the influence of manures on mineral application rates. Table B3.1a shows the dressing cover, average field rate and overall fertiliser rates for the main crops in Great Britain, with and without manure inputs.

For all the major crops the overall application rate of nitrogen from manufactured mineral fertiliser was higher on fields where organic manures were not applied in 2025. The difference in overall nitrogen application rates, with and without manure, ranged from 13-19 kg/ha except for potatoes where the difference was 1 kg/ha. The data for potatoes and sugar beet should be treated with caution as these are derived from a small number of fields. The Survey does not collect reasons why manufactured fertiliser application rates may vary when used with or without organic manures. It is possible that certain fields have been managed to achieve a desired nutrient status, and a strategy of this sort may require unusually high or low applications of specific nutrients. Where only a small number of fields are surveyed, such a strategy may exert an influential bias on the overall figures for a crop in the report.

Differences in overall application rates with and without manures for nitrogen, phosphate, and potash for the period 2021 to 2025 are shown in Table B3.1b below. The application of lower rates on manured fields held true for nitrogen for all major combinable crops throughout the period. Overall application rates were lower on manured fields for phosphate and potash on winter wheat in every year from 2021-2025. Other crops show greater variability between manured and unmanured field rates for the different nutrients which may in part be due to the smaller number of fields of each of these crops in the Survey causing higher statistical variability.

Table B3.1b Overall application rates (kg/ha) of manufactured fertiliser application to crops in Great Britain, with and without applications of organic manure, 2021 – 2025

Nitrogen (kg/ha)	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Winter wheat	164	194	149	174	157	180	156	178	168	183
Spring barley	94	102	85	99	89	101	89	102	86	105
Winter barley	129	145	117	136	121	143	111	144	134	151
Potatoes (maincrop)	115	131	175	159	122	151	133	127	122	123
Sugar beet	69	66	72	53	73	65	68	67	69	82
Winter oilseed rape	152	175	139	159	143	172	153	167	160	176
Phosphate (kg/ha)	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Winter wheat	13	22	9	17	10	16	8	17	8	15
Spring barley	26	30	19	26	24	24	25	22	26	23
Winter barley	19	26	14	18	14	18	17	19	21	18
Potatoes (maincrop)	44	98	57	120	72	100	101	100	57	76
Sugar beet	14	21	10	17	16	22	17	16	7	21
Winter oilseed rape	6	31	7	21	5	22	6	20	6	20
Potash (kg/ha)	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Winter wheat	17	28	12	21	14	21	13	22	13	22
Spring barley	33	36	25	38	28	35	33	30	38	29
Winter barley	29	32	24	25	20	29	19	24	28	27
Potatoes (maincrop)	135	163	208	183	177	152	165	203	145	160
Sugar beet	26	53	21	42	23	44	27	38	31	39
Winter oilseed rape	10	34	7	19	10	24	9	19	8	20

Data for grassland are presented separately because grass is managed differently according to the amount of production required. Intensive milk production requires large volumes of grass and is likely to receive higher inputs of both manure and mineral fertilisers than grass for beef or sheep systems. Table B3.2 shows the average field rate of fertiliser applied to grassland in different management systems (as defined by Robust farm type groups) with and without applications of manure. Average field rates have been used for grassland because some grass fields receive no mineral fertiliser, not because of manure use, but because the amount of grass production required does not warrant fertiliser input.

Table B3.2 Average field rates (kg/ha) of manufactured fertiliser application on grassland with and without applications of organic manure by Robust type, with number of fields, Great Britain 2025

	Nitrogen (kg/ha)		Phosphate (kg/ha)		Potash (kg/ha)		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
Cereals								
Grass under 5 years old *	142	102	8	36	45	46	10	82
Grass 5 years and over *	91	59	[c]	26	[c]	35	15	231
All grass	124	76	8	28	45	40	25	313
Dairy								
Grass under 5 years old*	147	82	19	20	36	25	81	25
Grass 5 years and over	146	112	23	19	57	42	152	119
All grass	146	108	22	19	54	39	233	144
General cropping								
Grass under 5 years old *	90	96	37	28	52	45	24	45
Grass 5 years and over *	86	93	24	27	28	44	23	128
All grass	87	94	26	27	39	45	47	173
Mixed								
Grass under 5 years old *	135	101	51	34	71	46	28	63
Grass 5 years and over *	88	62	26	13	35	18	29	161
All grass	110	73	37	19	50	27	57	224
Other grazing livestock								
Grass under 5 years old	89	72	23	25	36	38	157	158
Grass 5 years and over	74	58	18	18	20	20	507	550
All grass	77	60	19	19	23	23	664	708
All farm types								
Grass under 5 years old	115	89	25	28	41	40	303	373
Grass 5 years and over	97	71	19	18	28	25	730	1,195
All grass	101	74	20	20	31	29	1,033	1,568

Note: The field numbers in “All farm types” exceed the sum of the components in the table as it also includes pig and poultry farms.

* Estimates are based on a small number of observations and should therefore be treated with caution.

When looking at all farm types taken together, the rates of nitrogen fertiliser were mostly higher on fields where manures were also used. This therefore suggests a different relationship between manure and mineral fertiliser than on crops. Different grass fields can have very different productive potentials and thus where a high level of production is expected, and required, the field will receive a considerably higher nutrient input than low yielding fields. Thus both manure and mineral fertiliser will contribute to nutrient inputs to fields with high potential, noting that there is a limit to the permitted application rate of manure.

Mineral fertiliser rates were consistently higher on short term grass than permanent grassland. The data for certain Robust groups, notably cereals, general cropping and mixed farms are derived from relatively few fields, so need to be treated with due caution.

As so many fields on dairy farms receive manure, a separate analysis was carried out to examine the influence of grass management (Table B3.3). All grazing land also receives manure deposited naturally by livestock, but this is not measured as part of the Survey.

Table B3.3 Average field rates (kg/ha) of manufactured fertiliser application on dairy grassland with and without applications of organic manure, with numbers of fields, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

All cut for hay	Nitrogen (kg/ha)		Phosphate (kg/ha)		Potash (kg/ha)		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
2021	112	81	38	15	33	20	24	12
2022	105	90	30	[c]	36	20	21	18
2023	106	87	21	27	42	37	17	16
2024	51	108	12	22	37	32	14	16
2025	112	102	7	17	7	43	17	18
All cut for silage	Nitrogen (kg/ha)		Phosphate (kg/ha)		Potash (kg/ha)		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
2021	141	141	27	30	48	52	201	50
2022	135	135	19	23	30	35	222	43
2023	139	108	26	27	35	34	201	46
2024	140	113	21	25	47	29	185	38
2025	161	116	24	19	63	38	165	35
All grazing	Nitrogen (kg/ha)		Phosphate (kg/ha)		Potash (kg/ha)		Fields in Survey	
	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure	with manure	without manure
2021	130	117	24	24	39	32	252	136
2022	115	120	18	23	25	31	278	157
2023	121	111	25	21	33	26	231	154
2024	111	98	18	20	33	26	203	144
2025	135	104	24	19	51	40	172	129

Application rates of nitrogen fertilisers were generally higher for grass to be cut for silage. Average field rates on grazed grass were higher on those fields receiving a dressing of manure. In 2024 the average field rate of nitrogen on dairy grassland cut for hay was very low, (Table B3.3). It is believed that this is attributable to the small number of fields and varied management practice. Data for grass cut for hay should be treated with caution as the number of fields managed this way is low.

Over the five-year period 2021-2025, mineral fertiliser application rates, whilst variable, were higher for grass cut for silage than other grass management systems.

SECTION C

FARMING PRACTICES

Farmers were asked a series of questions about the care taken in application of fertilisers and manures and in record keeping. The results are presented in this section.

C1 SPREADER CHECKING

In 2025, 67% of farms spread their own fertiliser compared with 74% in 2021. Over the same five-year period the percentage of farms without a spreader has increased to 21% in 2025. Use of contractors has remained in the range of 10-13% of farms since 2021 (Table C1.1).

Table C1.1 Percentages (%) of farms that were without a solid fertiliser spreader, used a contractor to spread solid manufactured fertiliser or owned at least one fertiliser spreader. Great Britain 2021 – 2025

All respondents*	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
No spreader	15	19	21	22	21
Contractor applied	11	10	12	13	12
Spread fertiliser with own spreader(s)	74	71	67	65	67

Note: * May add up to more than 100% because those with no spreader may use a contractor.

In 2025, of those farms who had at least one spreader, 61% indicated they check the accuracy of mineral fertiliser spreaders using catch trays on an annual basis (Table C1.2). Farmers checking more frequently than this comprises 6%, checking at each change of fertiliser. 14% of farmers never check their spreaders for accuracy and a further 2% of farmers considered that spreader accuracy did not need to be checked. Of those farms with a spreader 64% indicated that they used a specific measure to avoid under or over application on headlands, for example, deflector plates.

Table C1.2 Percentage (%) frequency of checking solid fertiliser spread patterns using catch trays on farms with at least one fertiliser spreader, Great Britain 2021 – 2025

Respondents with fertiliser spreader(s)	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
At each change of fertiliser type	6	7	7	7	6
Once a year	48	47	52	56	61
Less than once a year	22	17	22	22	17
Never checked	20	25	16	13	14
Factory set & doesn't need checking	4	4	3	2	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	100	100	100	100	100

Practices of checking are consistent over the five-year period 2021-2025, although the percentage of farms never checking their spreaders was below the five-year average of 17%.

C2 NUTRIENT RECORD KEEPING

Table C2.1 Prevalence of record keeping methods, by Robust type, Great Britain 2025. Only includes farms where each nutrient type was applied during the 2025 crop year.

BSFP Robust type*	Record keeping method	Manufactured fertiliser records		Organic manure records	
		% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Cereals	Computer program	56	69	51	67
	Farm diary	37	34	40	39
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	15	12	14	11
	File record sheet (file in office)	23	18	21	19
	Other paper record	1	0	1	0
	No records kept	0	0	0	0
Dairy	Computer program	27	37	25	35
	Farm diary	48	45	46	43
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	23	20	24	20
	File record sheet (file in office)	16	20	19	22
	Other paper record	0	1	0	1
	No records kept	0	0	0	0
General cropping	Computer program	41	62	39	52
	Farm diary	44	37	48	43
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	20	12	17	12
	File record sheet (file in office)	21	18	19	18
	Other paper record	2	1	4	2
	No records kept	5	1	3	0
Mixed	Computer program	42	43	33	42
	Farm diary	40	37	42	40
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	14	24	19	27
	File record sheet (file in office)	23	21	26	20
	Other paper record	0	1	0	1
	No records kept	6	2	2	1
Other grazing livestock	Computer program	15	20	13	17
	Farm diary	56	57	57	58
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	25	21	21	18
	File record sheet (file in office)	15	16	17	18
	Other paper record	0	1	1	1
	No records kept	1	1	2	2
All farm types	Computer program	34	47	25	37
	Farm diary	47	43	51	48
	Farm notebook/pocketbook	20	17	20	17
	File record sheet (file in office)	19	18	19	19
	Other paper record	1	1	1	1
	No records kept	2	1	1	1

Note: More than one method may be used. * For BSFP Robust type see Appendix 5

Farm diaries continued to be the most common method for recording both fertiliser and manure use (Table C2.1), when looking at 'All farm types' in 2025. Computers were used for recording fertiliser applications on 34% of farms that applied manufactured fertiliser, representing 47% in area terms. No records were kept on 2% of farms and this was 1% when considered on an area basis. Computerised record keeping was less common for organic manures, occurring on 25% of relevant farms. The method of record keeping for 'all farm types' was broadly similar for both manufactured and organic fertilisers.

The approach to record keeping varied between different farm types. For manufactured fertilisers, use of computers was highest on 'cereals' farms at 56%, and lower at 42% on 'mixed', 27% on 'dairy' and 15% on 'other livestock' farms, where a higher proportion used farm diaries. Farms of all types except 'cereals' favoured diaries for recording applications of organic manures.

Table C2.2 Percentage (%) of farms using different record keeping methods, Great Britain 2021-25. Only includes farms where each nutrient type was applied during the crop year.

Manufactured fertilisers*	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
Computer program	29	30	30	36	34
Farm diary	56	52	50	52	47
Farm notebook/pocketbook	15	16	16	16	20
File record sheet (file in office)	20	23	22	18	19
Other paper record	2	1	1	1	1
No records kept	3	2	1	1	2

Organic manures*	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
Computer program	20	20	22	25	25
Farm diary	58	56	54	56	51
Farm notebook/pocketbook	15	16	15	16	20
File record sheet (file in office)	20	22	23	22	19
Other paper record	3	1	2	1	1
No records kept	6	6	4	2	1

* Columns may add up to more than 100% because more than one method may be used.

Recording methods for manufactured fertilisers show some variations across the five-year period 2021-2025, with farm diaries remaining the most widely used recording method. For organic manures, records of some type were kept on 94-99% of farms for the five-year period.

C3 SOIL TESTING

Table C3.1 Soil testing for different variables: percentage (%) of cropped and grass area tested, Great Britain 2021 - 2025

	Crop area %					
	Standard P, K, Mg, pH	Nitrogen	pH (lime only)	Precision Farming* purposes	Broad spectrum analysis %	Soil organic matter test, 'Soil health' %
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	32	15	6	10	[x]	[x]
2022	36	20	7	13	[x]	[x]
2023	37	20	6	13	[x]	[x]
2024	40	19	7	13	20	18
2025	39	16	13	11	20	24
	Grass area %					
	Standard P, K, Mg, pH	Nitrogen	pH (lime only)	Precision Farming* purposes	Broad spectrum analysis	Soil organic matter test, 'Soil health'
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021	7	1	3	1	[x]	[x]
2022	9	3	3	2	[x]	[x]
2023	12	5	3	2	[x]	[x]
2024	13	4	3	2	3	3
2025	17	5	6	3	7	7

Note: * Soil sampling for Precision Farming purposes involves taking composite samples from different defined locations in the field, each for individual analysis, to help determine the pattern of nutrient and pH spatial variability within the field.

Table C3.1 shows the percentage of the cropping and grass area that was soil tested for the crop years 2021–2025. It is usual practice, especially for crop fields, to test a sub-set of them in any given year. Standard P, K, Mg, pH was the most commonly used soil test for the period, with an average of 37% of the cropping area and 12% of the grass area. All types of soil tests were more prevalent on crops than on grass, for all years 2021-25.

C4 MITIGATION OF AMMONIA LOSSES

Table C4.1 shows the use of solid urea straight nitrogen and liquid urea ammonium nitrate (UAN) containing urease inhibitors, which reduce gaseous losses of ammonia (a known air pollutant). An ammonia emission inhibitor to mitigate losses of ammonia following the application of a urea-containing fertiliser will usually involve inhibition of the activity of the enzyme urease but can include emission control through physical encapsulation of the solid product or other technology.

In April 2024, in England it became a requirement to only apply unprotected urea between January 15th and March 31st when ammonia losses are less due to colder, wetter conditions. This requirement represents best practice in other GB countries.

Table C4.1a Use (% weighted product volume) of urea fertilisers containing a urease inhibitor by month, on cropping areas or grass fields, Great Britain and England 2025

Month of application	Urea volume, Great Britain				Urea volume, England			
	Product contains an inhibitor			Total	Product contains an inhibitor			Total
	Yes %	No %	Don't know %		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	2	8	0	10	1	9	0	10
Mar	12	40	1	52	12	43	1	55
Apr	14	10	1	25	15	9	1	25
May	5	3	0	9	5	2	0	7
Jun	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Jul	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sept	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual total	35	62	3	100	34	64	2	100

Month of application	UAN volume, Great Britain				UAN volume, England			
	Product contains an inhibitor			Total	Product contains an inhibitor			Total
	Yes %	No %	Don't know %		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	1	7	1	9	2	6	1	8
Mar	13	29	3	46	14	30	4	48
Apr	15	14	3	32	16	13	3	32
May	5	4	1	10	5	3	1	9
Jun	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2
Jul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sept	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual total	37	55	8	100	38	53	9	100

In 2025, the annual totals show that in Great Britain 62% of urea and 55% of UAN was uninhibited. However, when timing of applications are taken into account, of the 64% uninhibited urea volume used in England, the majority (53 percentage points) was used before March 31st. A similar pattern is recorded for the 53% uninhibited UAN volume used in England, of which 36 percentage points was used before March 31st.

Table C4.1b Treatment of urea and UAN to inhibit ammonia emission by percentage (%) of total product used, Great Britain 2024 – 2025

Percentage of total product used		Great Britain					
		2024 Jan-Mar %	2025 Jan-Mar %	2024 Apr-Dec %	2025 Apr-Dec %	2024 Jan-Dec %	2025 Jan-Dec %
Urea	Inhibited	11	14	24	21	35	35
	Not inhibited	42	48	15	14	57	62
	Don't know	3	1	5	2	8	3
	All urea	56	63	44	37	100	100
UAN	Inhibited	8	15	21	22	29	37
	Not inhibited	32	36	32	19	65	55
	Don't know	3	4	4	4	7	8
	All UAN	43	55	57	45	100	100

Table C4.1c Treatment of urea and UAN to inhibit ammonia emission by percentage (%) of total product used, England 2024 - 2025

Percentage of total product used		England					
		2024 Jan-Mar %	2025 Jan-Mar %	2024 Apr-Dec %	2025 Apr-Dec %	2024 Jan-Dec %	2025 Jan-Dec %
Urea	Inhibited	12	13	24	22	36	34
	Not inhibited	45	53	13	12	58	64
	Don't know	3	1	2	1	5	2
	All urea	60	66	40	34	100	100
UAN	Inhibited	8	15	22	23	30	38
	Not inhibited	33	36	30	17	62	53
	Don't know	3	5	4	4	7	9
	All UAN	44	56	56	44	100	100

Inhibition treatment patterns are largely consistent between 2024 and 2025 in Great Britain. Use of uninhibited UAN reduced from 32% of the volume in 2024 to 19% of the volume in 2025 during the April to December period (Table 4.1b). In England, in 2025, 66% of the urea volume was used in the January to March period and 34% during April to December (Table 4.1c). In Jan-Mar 2025 the uninhibited percentage was 53% falling to 12% for Apr-Dec (Table 4.1c). Similar patterns were evident for UAN with 36% uninhibited for Jan-Mar 2025 and 17% for Apr-Dec in 2025.

Table C4.1d Treatment of urea and UAN to inhibit ammonia emission by percentage (%) of product used within time periods, Great Britain 2024 - 2025

Percentage of product used within time periods		Great Britain			
		2024 Jan-Mar %	2025 Jan-Mar %	2024 Apr-Dec %	2025 Apr-Dec %
Urea	Inhibited	20	21	55	58
	Not inhibited	75	77	35	38
	Don't know	6	2	10	4
	All urea in period	100	100	100	100
UAN	Inhibited	18	27	36	49
	Not inhibited	76	66	56	42
	Don't know	6	8	7	9
	All UAN in period	100	100	100	100

Table C4.1e Treatment of urea and UAN to inhibit ammonia emission by percentage (%) of product used within time periods, England 2024 - 2025

Percentage of product used within time periods		England			
		2024 Jan-Mar %	2025 Jan-Mar %	2024 Apr-Dec %	2025 Apr-Dec %
Urea	Inhibited	20	19	61	63
	Not inhibited	75	80	33	34
	Don't know	5	1	6	3
	All urea in period	100	100	100	100
UAN	Inhibited	18	27	39	52
	Not inhibited	75	65	53	39
	Don't know	7	8	8	9
	All UAN in period	100	100	100	100

Tables C4.1d and e show the percentages of inhibited and uninhibited urea and UAN within the different time periods. In Great Britain in 2025 uninhibited urea was 77% for Jan-Mar, falling to 38% for Apr-Dec. In England in 2025 uninhibited urea was 80% of the volume for Jan-Mar, falling to 34% Apr-Dec. The same pattern was observed for UAN in GB and England. When a comparison is made between 2024 and 2025 inhibition levels were increased during the Apr-Dec period, for both urea and UAN in Great Britain and England.

Table C4.2 Use (% weighted area) of urea fertilisers containing a urease inhibitor on cropping or grass fields, Great Britain 2021 – 2025 and England 2021 - 2025

Urea (solid)	Great Britain				England			
	Product contains an inhibitor			Total	Product contains an inhibitor			Total
	Yes %	No %	Don't know %		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
2021	5	69	26	100	16	69	16	100
2022	8	83	9	100	8	83	9	100
2023	20	73	7	100	17	75	7	100
2024	35	57	8	100	36	58	5	100
2025	36	61	3	100	36	61	3	100

UAN (liquid)	Great Britain				England			
	Product contains an inhibitor			Total	Product contains an inhibitor			Total
	Yes %	No %	Don't know %		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
2021	1	70	29	100	11	67	23	100
2022	6	84	10	100	5	87	9	100
2023	11	83	6	100	10	84	6	100
2024	29	65	7	100	30	63	8	100
2025	32	62	7	100	33	60	7	100

Note: Due to rounding, totals may not sum to 100%.

Table C4.2 shows urea and UAN inhibition levels on a weighted area basis for Great Britain and England for the five year period 2021-2025. Interpretation of the table is not straightforward as the approach to the question was changed and made more specific in 2022. This had the effect of reducing the weighted area (%) attributed to the positive responses and the 'Don't Knows'. In 2025, on a weighted area basis, 36% of total solid urea contained an inhibitor, which was very slightly up from 2024. In 2025, 32% of UAN contained a urease inhibitor in Great Britain and 33% in England, with both increasing from 2024.

C5 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

In 2023 and 2025 farmers were asked about the nutrient management plans that they had in place. In 2025 58% of farms in Great Britain had a plan in place which was an increase from 50% in 2023. On an area basis, in Great Britain, plans covered 75% which was an increase from 67% in 2023 (Table C5.1).

Table C5.1 Farms with a nutrient management plan in place, by farms (%) and area (%), and by Great Britain and GB country, 2023 and 2025

Nutrient management plan in place		All farms - GB		England		Scotland		Wales	
		% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Yes	2023	50	67	55	72	34	50	47	55
	2025	58	75	66	83	40	53	44	58
No	2023	50	33	45	28	66	50	53	45
	2025	42	25	34	17	60	47	56	42

Table C5.2 presents nutrient management plan responses by farm Robust type. Plans are much more prevalent on “Cropping” than “Livestock” Robust types which goes some way to explaining why plans are less common in Scotland and Wales. For all Robust types the percentage of farms with a nutrient management plan was higher in 2025 than in 2023.

Table C5.2 Farms with a nutrient management plan in place, by farms (%) and area (%), and by Robust type, Great Britain, 2023 and 2025

Nutrient management plan in place		All farms - GB		Cropping Robust types ¹		Dairy farms		Livestock Robust types ²		Mixed farms	
		% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Yes	2023	50	67	72	86	67	80	29	39	60	72
	2025	58	75	79	91	79	86	38	51	71	86
No	2023	50	33	28	14	33	20	71	61	40	28
	2025	42	25	21	9	21	14	62	49	29	14

¹ Cropping group includes the Cereals and General Cropping Robust types.

² Livestock group includes Cattle/Sheep LFA and Cattle/Sheep Lowland Robust types.

Agronomists and distributors remain the most common form of assistance in the development of the nutrient management plans in Great Britain as a whole. This was not the case in Wales where 51% of farms in 2023 and 35% of farms in 2025 were developing the plan themselves or by an employee of the farm (Table C5.3).

Table C5.3 Methods and assistance used to prepare the nutrient management plan, by farms (%), in Great Britain and by GB country, 2023 and 2025

Methods used in the preparation of a management plan	All farms - GB		England		Scotland		Wales	
	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %
Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)	13	10	14	11	6	5	12	11
PLANET Software	6	3	7	4	4	1	0	0
MANNER Software	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Tried and Tested	4	2	4	2	0	1	3	1
FACTS Qualified advisor	23	21	25	21	25	10	11	31
Agronomist/Distributor	58	64	67	71	50	56	13	22
Self or farm employee	33	33	31	31	29	40	51	35
None of the above	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	6
Other	10	6	9	4	9	11	17	14
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0

Use of agronomists/distributors is highest on Cropping and Mixed Robust types and is lowest, but rising, on the Livestock Robust types.

Table C5.4 Methods and assistance used to prepare the nutrient management plan, by farms (%), and by Robust type, Great Britain, 2023 and 2025

Methods used in the preparation of a management plan	All farms - GB		Cropping Robust types ¹		Dairy farms		Livestock Robust types ²		Mixed farms	
	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %	2023 %	2025 %
Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)	13	10	12	11	13	7	13	9	13	14
PLANET Software	6	3	7	5	5	4	5	3	7	0
MANNER Software	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Tried and Tested	4	2	3	3	2	0	7	1	2	5
FACTS Qualified advisor	23	21	29	23	21	24	11	17	26	25
Agronomist/Distributor	58	64	73	73	56	63	29	45	70	71
Self or farm employee	33	33	28	30	33	35	43	37	39	32
None of the above	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	3
Other	10	6	7	6	16	3	12	9	8	4
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2

¹ Cropping group includes the Cereals and General Cropping Robust types.

² Livestock group includes Cattle/Sheep LFA and Cattle/Sheep Lowland Robust types.

Table C5.5 shows amongst farms who don't have a nutrient management plan whether they intend to prepare one. Of these farms, 28% indicated that they would, but 37% were undecided, or didn't provide a response. These responses were consistent with those collected in 2023. Intentions by Robust type are presented in Table C5.6.

Table C5.5 Intention to have a nutrient management plan, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain and GB countries, 2025

Intend to have a nutrient management plan	All farms - GB		England		Scotland		Wales	
	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Yes	25	28	17	23	30	29	38	40
No	39	34	52	48	19	17	29	27
Don't know/No answer	36	37	31	28	51	54	33	33
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table C5.6 Intention to have a nutrient management plan, by Robust type, Great Britain, 2025

Intend to have a nutrient management plan	All farms - GB		Cropping Robust types ¹		Dairy farms		Livestock Robust types ²		Mixed farms	
	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Yes	25	28	18	24	56	44	25	28	18	25
No	39	34	44	34	7	10	40	37	29	28
Don't know/No answer	36	37	38	43	37	45	35	35	53	48
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ Cropping group includes the Cereals and General Cropping Robust types.

² Livestock group includes Cattle/Sheep LFA and Cattle/Sheep Lowland Robust types.

Of those farms who do not have a nutrient management plan, but intend to have one in future, 49% would involve a FACTS qualified advisor in its development. Over Great Britain as a whole the majority would either locate one known locally (29%) or through a fertiliser supplier or merchant (21%).

Table C5.7 Anticipated methods to be used to locate a FACTS qualified advisor (FQA), by farms (%) and by area (%) of those intending to use, Great Britain and GB countries, 2025

Anticipated method to locate a FACTS qualified advisor (FQA)	All farms - GB		England		Scotland		Wales	
	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Fertiliser supplier or merchant	21	21	33	25	21	25	8	12
Fertiliser manufacturer	1	4	2	7	0	0	0	0
Known local FQA	33	29	23	27	49	38	36	29
Animal feed supplier / manufacturer	2	1	5	3	0	0	0	0
Own on-farm FQA	16	16	28	21	9	14	6	11
Other	15	18	4	13	0	0	33	33
Don't know or No answer	13	10	5	5	21	23	16	14

Table C5.8 Anticipated methods to be used to locate a FACTS qualified advisor (FQA), by farms (%) and by area (%), by Robust type of those intending to use, Great Britain, 2025

Anticipated method to locate a FACTS qualified advisor (FQA)	All farms - GB		Cropping Robust types ¹		Dairy farms		Livestock Robust types ²		Mixed farms	
	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
Fertiliser supplier or merchant	21	21	0	0	0	0	20	22	82	73
Fertiliser manufacturer	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
Known local FQA	33	29	33	53	13	20	37	28	18	27
Animal feed supplier or manufacturer	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Own on-farm FQA	16	16	36	19	34	43	12	12	0	0
Other	15	18	15	16	53	37	12	18	0	0
Don't know or No answer	13	10	15	12	0	0	15	13	0	0

¹ Cropping group includes the Cereals and General Cropping Robust types.

² Livestock group includes Cattle/Sheep LFA and Cattle/Sheep Lowland Robust types.

C6 CARBON FOOTPRINT

Table C6.1 Farms that have been asked about the carbon footprint of their output, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2025

Those asked about the carbon footprint of output	All farms - GB	
	% farms	% area
Yes	14	21
No	86	79
Don't know/No answer	0	0
Total	100	100

In 2025 14% of farms in Great Britain had been asked about the carbon footprint of any of their output, with this figure rising to 21% on an area basis (Table C6.1).

Table C6.2 Carbon calculators used, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2025

Carbon calculators used	All farms - GB	
	% farms	% area
Agrecalc	3	5
Cool Farm Tool	1	2
Farm Carbon Calculator	2	3
Trinity Ag Tech's Sandy	1	1
Other	8	10
No - not used	73	65
Don't know/No answer	14	14

Use of Carbon calculators was low in 2025 at 14% of farms or 22% on an area basis (Table C6.2).

Table C6.3 Farms asking their fertiliser supplier for the carbon footprint of any of their fertilisers, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2025

Those asking about the carbon footprint of purchased fertiliser	All farms - GB	
	% farms	% area
Yes	3	3
No	97	97
Don't know/No answer	0	0
Total	100	100

In 2025 3% of farms had asked their fertiliser supplier about the carbon footprint of their products (Table C6.3), with 2% indicating they had purchased a fertiliser because it had a lower carbon footprint (Table C6.4).

Table C6.4 Farms that purchased any fertiliser because it had a lower carbon footprint, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2025

Fertiliser purchased due to lower carbon footprint	All farms - GB	
	% farms	% area
Yes	2	2
No	90	91
Don't know/No answer	8	7
Total	100	100

When thinking about the future 26% of farms felt that low carbon fertilisers will be important, rising to 32% in area terms (Table C6.5).

Table C6.5 Farms that state low carbon fertiliser will be important in their future business, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2025

Low carbon fertilisers will be important in the future	All farms - GB	
	% farms	% area
Yes	26	32
No	41	35
Don't know/No answer	33	32
Total	100	100

C7 COVER CROPS

Respondents were asked whether they were growing cover and/or catch crops in the crop year 2025. Of those farms with crops, 32% indicated that they were growing cover and/or catch crops during the 2024/25 cropping season. Those holdings who indicated they were growing cover/catch crops were responsible for 43% of the total crop area in Great Britain (Table C7.1).

Table C7.1 Percentage of farms with crops growing cover and/or catch crops, by farms (%) and area (%), Great Britain, 2021 - 2025

Farms growing cover/catch crops	Yes		No	
	% farms	% area	% farms	% area
2021	22	[x]	78	[x]
2022	21	[x]	79	[x]
2023	27	35	73	65
2024	28	37	72	63
2025	32	43	68	57

For the holdings growing cover/catch crops, cover/catch crops were grown on 27% of their crop area. For Great Britain overall, when cropping farms without cover/catch crops are taken into account, cover/catch crops accounted for 12% of the total crop area in the 2024/2025 growing season. (Table 7.2).

Table C7.2 Cover and/or catch crop area as a percentage of holding crop area, and total crop area. Great Britain, 2023 – 2025

Cover/catch crop areas	Cover/catch crop area as a % of cropping area of these farms growing crops	Cover/catch crop area as a % of total GB crop area
	% crop area	% crop area
2023	26	9
2024	26	10
2025	27	12

Note: Crop area does not include grassland.

In 2025 farmers were asked about the methods used to destroy cover crops (Table C7.3). Ploughing or cultivating into soil was the most common response (34% of farms) with application of a herbicide mentioned on 31% of farms.

Table C7.3 Methods used for cover crop destruction, Great Britain, 2025

Cover crop destruction method	2025 % farms
Application of herbicide	31
Plough/Cultivate into soil	34
Frost kill	4
Other method	2
Not destroyed	5
Animal grazing	44
Don't Know/No answer	4

Note: Total exceeds 100% as multiple answers possible.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LONGER TERM TRENDS IN FERTILISER USE – DATA TABLES

Table AA1.1 Total overall nitrogen application rates (kg/ha), England & Wales 1976 - 2025 and Scotland and Great Britain 1983 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
1976	96	[x]	[x]	98	[x]	[x]	97	[x]	[x]
1977	100	[x]	[x]	110	[x]	[x]	111	[x]	[x]
1978	105	[x]	[x]	113	[x]	[x]	114	[x]	[x]
1979	113	[x]	[x]	117	[x]	[x]	121	[x]	[x]
1980	121	[x]	[x]	119	[x]	[x]	120	[x]	[x]
1981	135	[x]	[x]	125	[x]	[x]	130	[x]	[x]
1982	141	[x]	[x]	123	[x]	[x]	132	[x]	[x]
1983	154	113	149	125	131	126	139	124	136
1984	162	121	157	132	127	131	147	125	143
1985	161	131	157	131	130	131	146	130	144
1986	156	119	152	135	120	132	146	120	142
1987	160	139	157	133	116	130	147	125	143
1988	149	125	146	116	132	119	133	129	132
1989	150	128	147	127	111	124	139	118	136
1990	149	131	147	132	116	129	141	122	138
1991	154	128	151	133	111	129	143	117	139
1992	147	125	145	104	111	106	126	116	125
1993	137	130	137	112	114	112	124	119	124
1994	149	128	147	117	112	116	133	118	130
1995	151	140	149	119	114	118	134	124	132
1996	148	122	145	118	100	115	133	108	128
1997	151	134	149	123	124	123	137	128	136
1998	146	131	144	107	119	109	127	124	126
1999	143	126	141	108	117	110	126	121	125
2000	154	135	149	95	110	99	124	118	123
2001	144	147	145	90	113	94	114	127	116
2002	153	143	150	85	105	89	116	119	117
2003	152	135	149	79	102	83	112	114	113
2004	150	133	148	73	93	77	108	107	108
2005	149	132	147	72	84	75	109	102	108
2006	145	119	142	69	86	72	106	98	104
2007	148	119	144	64	72	65	106	89	103
2008	141	109	137	52	66	55	97	81	94
2009	140	111	137	54	69	57	98	84	95
2010	149	113	145	62	64	63	105	80	101
2011	150	119	146	57	59	57	103	79	99
2012	147	121	144	54	60	55	98	79	95
2013	138	124	136	57	68	59	95	87	94
2014	149	127	146	58	67	60	101	87	99
2015	149	130	146	53	67	56	100	89	98
2016	145	118	141	53	69	56	96	86	94
2017	141	118	137	51	68	54	92	86	91
2018	145	118	142	54	67	57	97	85	95
2019	141	109	137	51	67	54	94	82	92
2020	123	109	121	53	56	53	85	73	83
2021	134	103	130	48	63	51	89	77	87
2022	121	101	118	32	42	34	73	63	71
2023	127	111	125	38	41	38	79	65	77
2024	124	105	121	33	39	34	76	62	73
2025	128	123	127	40	47	42	80	73	79

Note: Years are harvest not calendar years (e.g. 2025 refers to the 2024-2025 crop year).

The full data table from 1970 is available in the dataset:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Table AA1.2 Dressing cover (% area) of autumn or winter-applied (August to January) nitrogen on winter cereals and winter oilseed rape and average application rate (kg/ha) for winter oilseed rape, England & Wales 1990 – 1998 and Great Britain 1999 – 2025

Winter wheat Dressing cover %		Winter barley Dressing cover %		Winter oilseed rape Dressing cover % Application rate kg N/ha	
England & Wales					
1990	10%	16%		45%	42
1991	11%	12%		49%	46
1992	8%	10%		50%	44
1993	8%	8%		41%	42
1994	12%	16%		44%	39
1995	11%	13%		48%	38
1996	11%	12%		51%	37
1997	12%	11%		44%	36
1998	7%	12%		34%	38
Great Britain					
1999	6%	10%		35%	43
2000	7%	11%		33%	42
2001	7%	14%		43%	43
2002	8%	16%		41%	47
2003	5%	9%		42%	39
2004	6%	9%		35%	40
2005	4%	9%		42%	40
2006	5%	7%		28%	34
2007	3%	5%		27%	41
2008	3%	6%		31%	33
2009	2%	3%		26%	31
2010	2%	7%		29%	33
2011	2%	3%		35%	29
2012	2%	5%		31%	27
2013	2%	4%		32%	28
2014	2%	5%		32%	29
2015	2%	3%		38%	32
2016	3%	4%		35%	31
2017	3%	3%		42%	30
2018	5%	4%		41%	31
2019	3%	5%		36%	28
2020	5%	7%		36%	32
2021	3%	5%		29%	33
2022	2%	4%		19%	32
2023	3%	4%		19%	32
2024	5%	5%		24%	35
2025	3%	5%		32%	32

Note: The full data table from 1983 is available in the dataset:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

**Table AA1.3 Overall phosphate application rates (kg/ha), England & Wales
1976 - 2025 and Scotland and Great Britain 1983 – 2025**

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
1976	50	[x]	[x]	29	[x]	[x]	38	[x]	[x]
1977	51	[x]	[x]	26	[x]	[x]	37	[x]	[x]
1978	49	[x]	[x]	28	[x]	[x]	39	[x]	[x]
1979	49	[x]	[x]	27	[x]	[x]	38	[x]	[x]
1980	49	[x]	[x]	27	[x]	[x]	37	[x]	[x]
1981	51	[x]	[x]	25	[x]	[x]	38	[x]	[x]
1982	55	[x]	[x]	24	[x]	[x]	39	[x]	[x]
1983	54	63	55	26	36	28	39	47	40
1984	61	68	62	25	33	26	42	48	42
1985	56	70	58	24	30	25	40	46	41
1986	56	63	57	22	27	23	40	42	40
1987	56	71	58	23	28	24	39	45	40
1988	54	65	56	21	31	23	38	45	39
1989	52	67	54	23	31	24	38	45	39
1990	51	68	53	24	28	25	38	43	39
1991	53	65	54	23	24	23	38	40	38
1992	51	67	54	19	30	22	35	43	38
1993	49	65	52	19	28	21	33	41	35
1994	51	69	53	23	28	24	37	43	38
1995	50	68	53	22	31	24	36	45	37
1996	51	65	52	22	26	23	36	40	36
1997	53	69	55	24	32	25	38	46	39
1998	49	66	51	20	27	21	34	43	35
1999	43	64	45	19	27	20	31	42	32
2000	44	60	47	18	30	20	31	42	32
2001	40	60	43	16	29	19	27	41	29
2002	41	62	44	18	26	20	29	39	31
2003	37	61	40	16	26	18	26	39	28
2004	38	63	41	15	27	17	25	40	28
2005	37	56	40	15	22	16	25	35	27
2006	32	53	35	14	22	16	23	33	25
2007	32	53	34	12	19	14	22	32	23
2008	28	50	30	9	16	10	18	28	20
2009	19	49	23	7	15	9	13	27	15
2010	27	50	30	9	16	10	18	27	19
2011	27	50	29	8	14	9	17	25	19
2012	25	50	28	8	14	9	16	25	17
2013	25	51	28	8	14	9	16	27	18
2014	26	50	29	8	15	10	17	26	18
2015	26	51	29	8	13	9	17	27	18
2016	26	50	29	7	14	9	16	27	18
2017	26	54	30	7	16	8	15	29	18
2018	24	50	27	7	13	8	15	26	17
2019	23	44	26	7	13	8	15	24	16
2020	21	41	24	7	12	8	13	21	15
2021	19	44	22	6	12	7	12	23	14
2022	14	38	17	3	8	4	8	18	10
2023	14	38	17	4	7	4	8	18	10
2024	13	43	17	3	7	4	8	20	10
2025	12	42	16	4	9	5	8	20	10

Note: The full data table from 1970 is available in the dataset:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Table AA1.4 Overall potash application rates (kg/ha), England & Wales 1976 - 2025 and Scotland and Great Britain 1983 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
1976	56	[x]	[x]	23	[x]	[x]	37	[x]	[x]
1977	56	[x]	[x]	23	[x]	[x]	39	[x]	[x]
1978	56	[x]	[x]	25	[x]	[x]	41	[x]	[x]
1979	53	[x]	[x]	27	[x]	[x]	40	[x]	[x]
1980	54	[x]	[x]	26	[x]	[x]	40	[x]	[x]
1981	56	[x]	[x]	26	[x]	[x]	41	[x]	[x]
1982	61	[x]	[x]	28	[x]	[x]	44	[x]	[x]
1983	60	62	60	28	36	29	44	46	43
1984	68	67	68	33	35	33	50	49	49
1985	63	67	64	32	34	32	48	47	48
1986	62	61	62	33	30	33	48	43	47
1987	63	70	64	33	31	33	48	47	48
1988	63	66	63	30	34	31	47	47	47
1989	60	73	62	34	36	34	48	51	48
1990	62	74	64	36	35	36	49	50	49
1991	62	72	63	35	31	34	49	47	49
1992	59	72	63	26	34	28	43	48	45
1993	58	72	60	27	34	29	42	47	43
1994	62	74	63	31	31	31	46	46	46
1995	59	72	61	30	34	31	44	48	45
1996	59	73	61	31	28	30	45	44	44
1997	66	74	67	35	36	35	50	50	50
1998	63	73	64	28	36	29	45	51	46
1999	55	71	57	27	32	28	41	48	42
2000	54	67	55	24	33	26	39	47	40
2001	48	72	52	23	33	24	34	49	37
2002	55	72	57	24	30	25	38	46	40
2003	51	73	54	20	31	22	34	46	36
2004	52	72	55	21	30	22	35	46	37
2005	51	65	53	19	26	20	34	40	35
2006	46	68	48	19	28	21	32	42	33
2007	44	69	47	17	23	18	30	40	32
2008	40	67	43	12	20	13	26	37	27
2009	29	64	33	10	20	12	19	35	22
2010	33	67	38	13	19	14	23	35	25
2011	35	65	39	11	16	12	23	32	25
2012	34	68	37	11	17	12	22	33	23
2013	36	68	40	11	19	13	22	36	25
2014	35	67	39	12	20	14	23	35	25
2015	33	65	38	11	17	12	22	34	24
2016	34	68	39	10	20	12	21	36	24
2017	31	71	37	9	21	12	20	39	23
2018	29	73	35	10	18	12	19	38	22
2019	30	60	34	9	20	11	19	34	22
2020	25	56	29	10	18	11	17	30	19
2021	23	58	28	9	18	11	16	31	18
2022	20	49	24	4	11	6	11	24	14
2023	19	51	23	5	10	6	11	25	14
2024	17	56	22	5	10	6	11	27	13
2025	17	56	22	6	12	8	11	27	14

Note: The full data table from 1970 is available in the dataset:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

**Table AA1.5 Overall sulphur (SO₃) application rates (kg/ha), Great Britain
2004 – 2025**

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
2004	19	18	19	2	2	2	10	8	9
2005	21	18	21	2	3	2	11	8	11
2006	20	18	20	2	4	3	11	9	11
2007	23	17	24	3	2	2	14	7	13
2008	23	16	22	1	2	2	12	7	11
2009	19	15	19	1	2	2	10	7	10
2010	24	18	23	2	3	2	13	8	12
2011	26	21	26	2	2	2	14	8	13
2012	29	25	29	2	3	2	15	10	14
2013	27	25	27	3	2	2	14	10	13
2014	31	28	31	4	3	4	17	11	16
2015	31	33	31	3	3	3	17	14	16
2016	32	24	31	3	4	3	17	11	16
2017	35	27	34	3	4	3	18	12	17
2018	36	30	35	5	4	4	19	13	18
2019	37	25	35	4	6	5	20	13	18
2020	31	29	31	5	6	5	17	14	16
2021	31	26	30	5	6	5	17	13	16
2022	28	21	27	3	4	3	15	10	14
2023	29	25	28	4	5	5	16	12	15
2024	30	23	29	5	3	4	16	10	15
2025	31	28	31	6	5	6	17	13	17

Table AA1.6a Nitrogen dressing covers (%), Great Britain 2004 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	91	96	91	68	82	70	78	87	80
2005	90	97	91	65	84	68	77	88	79
2006	90	95	91	67	83	70	78	87	80
2007	91	96	91	63	77	66	77	84	78
2008	90	94	91	55	71	58	72	79	73
2009	89	95	90	55	72	59	72	81	74
2010	89	95	90	60	72	63	75	79	75
2011	91	94	92	59	70	61	75	77	76
2012	91	95	91	59	67	61	74	76	74
2013	91	98	92	60	71	62	74	80	75
2014	92	97	92	60	72	62	75	80	76
2015	90	96	91	56	76	60	73	83	75
2016	89	97	90	53	76	58	70	83	72
2017	88	96	89	52	74	56	69	82	71
2018	91	95	91	56	71	59	72	80	74
2019	91	94	91	54	73	58	71	81	73
2020	89	93	89	54	65	56	70	74	70
2021	88	92	89	55	75	59	71	81	72
2022	86	93	87	38	59	42	60	71	62
2023	88	92	88	42	49	44	63	64	63
2024	87	91	87	39	52	42	61	66	62
2025	87	94	88	45	58	48	64	71	65

Table AA1.6b Phosphate dressing covers (%), Great Britain 2004 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	61	93	65	55	77	59	58	83	61
2005	60	88	63	50	75	55	55	80	59
2006	52	89	57	52	75	56	52	79	57
2007	50	86	54	47	67	51	48	74	52
2008	46	88	52	37	61	42	42	71	47
2009	34	86	40	33	59	38	34	69	39
2010	45	87	50	37	64	43	41	71	46
2011	45	82	49	36	58	41	41	66	45
2012	42	87	47	37	57	41	39	67	44
2013	43	86	48	38	59	42	40	68	45
2014	44	85	49	36	61	41	40	69	45
2015	43	85	49	35	65	41	39	72	45
2016	44	85	49	32	63	38	37	70	43
2017	44	91	50	30	65	37	36	75	43
2018	41	87	48	33	57	38	37	68	42
2019	43	83	48	32	58	37	37	67	42
2020	40	85	46	31	53	35	35	63	40
2021	35	84	41	31	59	37	33	68	39
2022	29	76	35	18	37	22	23	51	28
2023	29	76	35	19	35	22	24	49	28
2024	28	79	35	17	36	21	22	52	27
2025	24	74	31	20	38	24	22	51	27

Table AA1.6c Potash dressing covers (%), Great Britain 2004 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	63	93	67	56	75	59	59	82	63
2005	61	90	65	51	71	55	56	78	60
2006	56	91	60	52	71	56	54	78	58
2007	54	90	58	47	65	51	51	74	54
2008	50	90	55	38	61	42	44	71	48
2009	37	88	43	34	61	39	35	71	41
2010	44	89	50	39	63	44	42	72	47
2011	46	84	50	38	57	42	42	66	46
2012	42	90	47	38	58	42	40	68	44
2013	46	87	51	39	59	43	42	69	47
2014	45	86	50	37	63	43	41	70	46
2015	45	88	50	35	65	42	40	73	46
2016	44	83	50	33	64	39	38	72	44
2017	44	91	50	31	66	38	37	75	43
2018	41	88	47	35	59	40	38	69	43
2019	44	83	50	34	60	39	39	68	44
2020	39	84	44	33	54	37	35	64	40
2021	37	84	43	34	59	39	35	68	41
2022	31	76	37	19	37	22	25	51	29
2023	33	77	39	20	38	24	26	52	31
2024	31	81	38	19	38	22	24	53	29
2025	29	76	35	22	39	26	25	51	30

Table AA1.6d Sulphur dressing covers (%), Great Britain 2004 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	32	39	33	5	9	6	17	20	18
2005	35	36	35	5	9	6	19	19	19
2006	38	41	38	6	12	7	21	22	21
2007	42	36	42	5	6	5	24	17	23
2008	41	32	40	4	6	5	22	15	21
2009	35	36	35	5	7	5	20	17	20
2010	39	43	40	5	9	6	22	20	22
2011	42	42	42	6	7	6	24	19	23
2012	47	46	47	6	10	7	26	22	25
2013	47	41	47	8	8	8	26	19	25
2014	52	47	51	11	9	11	30	21	29
2015	53	48	52	9	12	10	31	25	30
2016	55	49	54	9	11	9	30	24	29
2017	58	53	57	9	12	10	32	27	31
2018	62	58	62	11	12	12	35	28	34
2019	63	58	62	13	20	14	36	33	36
2020	58	60	59	14	21	15	34	34	34
2021	60	55	60	14	22	16	36	33	35
2022	55	49	54	10	15	37	30	27	33
2023	56	53	55	12	16	12	32	29	32
2024	57	56	57	12	15	13	33	29	32
2025	60	59	60	15	18	15	35	32	34

Table AA1.6e FYM dressing covers (%), Great Britain 2004 – 2025

	Crops			Grass			All crops and grass		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	England & Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	18	24	19	42	26	39	31	25	30
2005	20	24	20	40	31	38	30	28	30
2006	20	35	22	43	29	40	32	31	32
2007	17	29	19	38	21	35	28	24	27
2008	20	33	22	37	21	34	29	26	29
2009	18	30	20	37	33	37	28	32	28
2010	20	31	21	38	24	35	29	26	29
2011	21	33	22	37	25	35	29	28	29
2012	23	28	24	37	23	34	31	24	30
2013	22	29	23	40	25	37	31	26	31
2014	21	30	22	35	24	32	28	26	28
2015	23	23	23	35	27	33	29	26	29
2016	22	31	23	37	23	34	30	26	29
2017	24	31	25	34	30	34	29	30	30
2018	26	33	27	37	36	37	32	35	32
2019	25	32	26	37	34	36	31	33	32
2020	24	33	26	37	29	35	31	30	31
2021	24	41	26	37	37	37	31	38	32
2022	27	39	28	38	36	37	33	37	33
2023	25	38	27	36	33	36	31	35	32
2024	25	38	27	37	27	35	31	31	31
2025	28	34	29	39	26	37	34	29	33

Table AA1.7 Quantities of major fertiliser nutrients used, UK 2001-2025 (25 years)

Crop year	Mineral fertiliser nutrients																Mineral fertiliser kt product					
	Nitrogen kt N				Phosphate kt P ₂ O ₅				Potash kt K ₂ O				Sulphur kt SO ₃				Nitrogen (N & NS)			Compounds, blends		
	England & Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	England & Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	England & Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	England & Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	Great Britain	N Ireland	UK	Great Britain	N Ireland	UK
2001	876	180	106	1,162	201	57	21	279	274	69	26	369	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	1,838	99	1,936	2,142	329	2,471
2002	915	187	95	1,197	209	55	19	283	297	70	24	391	58	8	[x]	[x]	2,250	85	2,335	2,211	300	2,511
2003	853	170	108	1,131	203	60	19	282	283	66	26	375	75	11	[x]	[x]	1,911	85	1,996	2,171	335	2,506
2004	875	150	100	1,125	205	57	16	278	288	65	22	375	95	14	[x]	[x]	1,939	91	2,030	2,254	296	2,550
2005	834	150	77	1,061	192	55	12	259	267	67	18	352	94	13	[x]	[x]	2,067	75	2,142	1,999	222	2,221
2006	780	153	70	1,003	173	51	11	235	243	66	16	325	88	13	[x]	[x]	1,885	75	1,959	1,932	202	2,134
2007	802	126	80	1,008	169	46	9	224	241	59	17	317	94	13	6	114	1,924	108	2,032	1,833	207	2,039
2008	800	127	74	1,001	160	49	6	215	244	68	13	325	114	16	6	136	2,197	130	2,326	1,675	153	1,827
2009	767	124	57	948	91	34	4	129	148	52	8	208	82	12	7	101	2,050	113	2,163	1,013	103	1,116
2010	813	127	76	1,016	134	44	6	184	182	57	12	251	107	15	7	129	2,220	134	2,355	1,384	145	1,529
2011	824	124	74	1,022	145	42	5	192	213	59	11	283	124	18	8	150	2,293	143	2,436	1,446	137	1,583
2012	809	125	66	1,000	140	43	5	188	193	56	10	259	130	19	8	156	2,271	112	2,383	1,352	132	1,483
2013	781	139	79	999	141	46	7	194	194	60	13	267	142	20	10	172	2,160	118	2,277	1,410	185	1,594
2014	838	151	71	1,060	146	48	7	201	206	65	13	284	160	23	9	192	2,449	117	2,566	1,482	166	1,647
2015	819	155	75	1,049	142	48	6	196	196	64	12	272	157	22	14	193	2,469	108	2,577	1,348	157	1,505
2016	801	155	71	1,026	139	51	7	197	188	69	13	270	162	23	9	194	2,378	121	2,499	1,349	155	1,504
2017	806	157	78	1,041	133	54	8	195	185	77	14	276	175	25	11	211	2,450	133	2,583	1,361	171	1,532
2018	804	147	82	1,033	131	48	9	188	174	72	16	262	176	25	12	210	2,446	126	2,571	1,296	192	1,488
2019	810	150	79	1,038	132	46	7	186	182	68	14	264	183	25	14	220	2,505	130	2,635	1,301	172	1,473
2020	774	134	79	986	125	39	8	171	180	64	14	258	177	29	14	221	2,256	120	2,376	1,328	177	1,505
2021	806	137	82	1,025	120	45	8	173	188	73	17	277	194	29	17	240	2,348	131	2,479	1,389	181	1,570
2022	693	119	57	869	74	32	5	112	135	57	11	203	190	26	12	228	2,235	102	2,337	939	110	1,049
2023	696	115	65	876	67	29	6	102	124	52	11	187	148	23	12	182	2,120	123	2,243	803	115	918
2024	696	113	70	879	73	36	7	116	128	61	12	202	170	21	14	205	2,138	129	2,267	876	129	1,005
2025 [p]	698	119	87	904	71	40	7	118	133	68	16	217	160	25	18	204	2,141	162	2,303	916	167	1,083

Note: Years are harvest not calendar years (e.g. 2025 refers to the 2024-25 crop year). Data for 2025[p] are provisional.

Nitrogen, phosphate and potash data since 1966 are available in the BSFP Dataset: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

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Symbols used in the tables:

- c is used where data have been suppressed because they are from fewer than 5 fields.
- x is used where data are not available.
- z is used where data are not applicable.
- p is used where data are provisional.

Table GB1.1 Total fertiliser use, Great Britain 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Spring wheat	95	9	9	62	24	137	43	52	47	130	4	5	29	62
Winter wheat	99	26	33	73	27	180	51	59	55	179	13	19	40	1,004
Spring barley	96	48	53	58	26	102	48	59	40	98	23	31	23	590
Winter barley	98	36	42	72	31	148	53	63	52	145	19	27	37	390
Oats	91	26	34	57	18	102	51	55	43	92	13	19	25	247
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	89	20	16	62	12	99	26	21	19	88	5	3	12	27
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	100	55	88	64	12	140	128	142	c	140	70	125	c	7
Potatoes (maincrop)	93	68	79	38	31	132	101	194	c	122	69	154	c	48
Sugar beet	84	29	54	63	40	92	53	66	41	77	16	36	26	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	99	27	31	75	36	172	55	50	71	170	15	15	53	214
Linseed	96	29	10	53	10	66	34	c	25	64	10	c	14	21
Forage maize	71	38	13	21	81	64	49	75	32	45	19	10	7	168
Rootcrops for stockfeed	88	40	44	23	64	78	79	77	40	69	32	34	9	44
Leafy forage crops	62	41	41	18	26	64	38	42	26	40	15	17	5	43
Arable silage/other fodder crops	36	11	18	21	46	116	37	66	47	41	4	12	10	126
Peas – human consumption	3	19	19	6	0	c	c	65	c	c	c	12	c	28
Peas – animal consumption	3	16	16	18	9	c	44	36	43	c	7	6	8	43
Beans – animal consumption	1	17	19	10	5	c	51	42	40	c	9	8	4	196
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Vegetables (other)	80	63	51	63	6	117	52	108	84	93	33	56	53	27
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	91	0	44	16	0	48	c	15	c	44	c	7	c	14
Other crops	61	23	16	31	19	76	48	86	37	46	11	14	11	65
All crops	88	31	35	60	29	145	52	63	52	127	16	22	31	3,438
Grass under 5 years old	70	29	36	26	47	102	27	41	40	71	8	15	10	740
Grass 5 years and over	43	23	24	13	35	83	19	27	36	36	4	6	5	2,107
All grass	48	24	26	15	37	87	20	30	37	42	5	8	6	2,847
All crops and grass	65	27	30	34	33	121	36	47	48	79	10	14	17	6,285

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025.

Table GB1.2 Use of straight fertiliser, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)			Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	92	2	2	138	c	c	127	c	c	62
Winter wheat	98	5	16	177	53	51	174	3	8	1,004
Spring barley	85	5	11	91	60	56	78	3	6	590
Winter barley	97	5	13	141	55	61	136	3	8	390
Oats	87	3	11	100	65	47	86	2	5	247
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	82	5	1	101	c	c	82	c	c	27
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	65	5	70	c	c	c	c	c	c	7
Potatoes (maincrop)	55	4	28	89	c	177	49	c	49	48
Sugar beet	76	4	30	93	c	71	71	c	21	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	96	4	17	169	49	45	163	2	8	214
Linseed	93	8	1	61	c	c	57	c	c	21
Forage maize	53	4	7	71	72	118	37	3	8	168
Rootcrops for stockfeed	54	0	4	82	c	c	44	c	c	44
Leafy forage crops	34	0	0	51	c	c	17	c	c	43
Arable silage/other fodder crops	28	2	9	125	c	98	35	c	9	126
Peas – human consumption	0	6	9	c	c	c	c	c	c	28
Peas – animal consumption	1	5	5	c	c	c	c	c	c	43
Beans – animal consumption	1	5	10	c	67	32	c	3	3	196
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Vegetables (other)	78	3	21	107	c	c	83	c	c	27
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	88	0	1	48	c	c	42	c	c	14
Other crops	47	0	4	74	c	c	35	c	c	65
All crops	83	4	13	143	58	60	118	3	8	3,438
Grass under 5 years old	45	0	3	104	c	78	47	c	2	740
Grass 5 years and over	23	0	0	91	68	67	21	0	0	2,107
All grass	26	0	1	95	63	74	25	0	1	2,847
All crops and grass	51	2	6	128	58	61	65	1	4	6,285

Note: A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB1.3 Use of compound fertiliser, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Spring wheat	7	7	7	6	40	42	63	c	3	3	5	c	62
Winter wheat	11	21	20	7	46	50	58	30	5	11	11	2	1,004
Spring barley	37	44	42	16	55	46	58	28	20	20	25	4	590
Winter barley	17	31	31	12	55	52	61	30	9	16	19	4	390
Oats	14	24	24	7	42	49	57	32	6	12	13	2	247
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	13	15	15	13	41	19	19	9	5	3	3	1	27
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	50	50	30	11	96	136	c	c	48	68	c	c	7
Potatoes (maincrop)	65	65	55	23	113	99	191	c	73	64	105	c	48
Sugar beet	13	25	25	13	50	45	60	25	6	11	15	3	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	20	23	15	7	35	56	52	27	7	13	8	2	214
Linseed	27	21	9	12	27	26	c	c	7	5	c	c	21
Forage maize	35	36	7	1	22	45	28	c	8	16	2	c	168
Rootcrops for stockfeed	36	40	40	11	67	79	71	41	24	32	28	5	44
Leafy forage crops	37	41	41	13	61	38	42	23	22	15	17	3	43
Arable silage/other fodder crops	8	10	10	1	76	31	34	c	6	3	3	c	126
Peas – human consumption	3	13	10	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	28
Peas – animal consumption	2	11	11	5	c	36	39	c	c	4	4	c	43
Beans – animal consumption	0	12	12	1	c	45	41	c	c	5	5	c	196
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Vegetables (other)	42	60	31	19	24	53	90	c	10	32	27	c	27
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	43	0	43	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	14
Other crops	23	23	12	4	48	48	c	c	11	11	c	c	65
All crops	19	27	24	9	50	50	60	32	9	14	14	3	3,438
Grass under 5 years old	33	29	33	9	75	27	38	31	25	8	13	3	740
Grass 5 years and over	24	23	23	6	63	18	26	28	15	4	6	2	2,107
All grass	25	24	25	7	66	20	28	28	17	5	7	2	2,847
All crops and grass	22	25	24	7	60	34	42	30	13	8	10	2	6,285

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB1.4 Use of lime, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)						Average field rate (tonnes/ha)						Fields limed	Fields in Survey
	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All		
Spring wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3	62
Winter wheat	5.4	1.9	1.5	0.7	0.4	9.8	4.5	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.6	73	1,004
Spring barley	11.0	0.5	1.5	c	0.8	13.8	4.0	5.4	3.9	c	0.4	3.9	71	590
Winter barley	3.5	1.0	1.1	c	0.8	6.4	4.8	4.1	2.2	c	0.8	3.7	25	390
Oats	2.0	1.4	1.2	c	c	4.5	5.1	5.7	5.8	c	c	5.5	10	247
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	27
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	7
Potatoes (maincrop)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	48
Sugar beet	11.1	2.5	c	31.5	2.3	47.4	4.7	7.2	c	4.7	8.8	5.1	26	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	2
Winter oilseed rape	7.1	0.1	1.4	2.1	0.3	11.0	4.7	3.2	2.2	5.0	0.1	4.3	22	214
Linseed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	21
Forage maize	4.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	c	5.4	4.2	3.0	5.0	5.0	c	4.3	11	168
Rootcrops for stockfeed	13.7	1.3	1.6	c	1.0	17.6	6.3	5.0	5.0	c	0.5	5.8	10	44
Leafy forage crops	5.1	4.6	9.3	c	c	19.0	4.4	0.3	5.0	c	c	3.7	9	43
Arable silage/other fodder crops	6.6	c	0.4	c	0.2	7.2	5.2	c	5.0	c	0.4	5.0	8	126
Peas – human consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	28
Peas – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	43
Beans – animal consumption	3.8	2.3	c	c	c	6.1	2.7	4.8	c	c	c	3.5	6	196
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	4
Vegetables (other)	13.4	5.3	1.8	c	27.8	48.3	1.4	4.0	5.0	c	0.4	1.3	7	27
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	4
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	14
Other crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2	65
All crops	6.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.6	10.0	4.3	4.8	4.1	4.8	2.1	4.3	286	3,438
Grass under 5 years old	7.0	0.1	1.5	0.4	0.6	9.5	4.4	5.0	3.6	1.1	1.6	4.0	77	740
Grass 5 years and over	3.9	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.9	5.7	3.8	1.6	3.7	0.7	0.9	3.3	118	2,107
All grass	4.4	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.8	6.3	4.0	1.8	3.6	1.0	1.0	3.4	195	2,847
All crops and grass	5.1	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7	7.9	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.5	1.4	3.9	481	6,285

Note: A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2025

Table GB2.1 Average fertiliser practice by grassland utilisation, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Grazed not mown	33	17	17	10	19	67	17	20	34	22	3	3	3	1,260
Grazed mown	66	36	40	22	60	94	22	34	37	62	8	14	8	1,265
All grazings	46	24	26	15	34	82	20	28	35	37	5	7	5	2,525
Cut for silage - grazed	78	41	47	28	68	100	23	36	37	78	9	17	10	846
Cut for silage - not grazed	79	18	24	24	77	136	29	46	46	107	5	11	11	178
All cut for silage	78	37	43	27	70	107	23	37	39	84	8	16	11	1,024
Cut for hay - grazed	47	24	25	12	48	73	19	28	29	34	5	7	3	478
Cut for hay - not grazed	56	19	26	22	31	87	22	41	49	49	4	11	11	103
All cut for hay	48	23	25	14	45	76	19	30	35	37	5	8	5	581
All mowings	67	33	37	22	61	100	22	35	39	67	7	13	9	1,536
All grass	48	24	26	15	37	87	20	30	37	42	5	8	6	2,847

Note: A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.0a Product use by month of application, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total product %
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Straight N	0	0	0	0	0	6	39	34	14	4	2	1	100
Straight P	11	5	15	0	0	1	36	21	9	1	0	1	100
Straight K	2	5	3	0	3	8	45	25	6	1	1	1	100
Compounds	5	4	0	0	0	4	22	33	18	7	4	3	100
All fertilisers	2	1	0	0	0	6	34	33	15	5	2	1	100

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.0b Nutrient use by month of application, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total nutrient %
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Nitrogen	0	0	0	0	0	6	35	34	15	5	2	1	100
Phosphate	9	7	3	0	0	4	26	30	13	4	2	2	100
Potash	6	6	1	0	1	5	30	29	12	4	3	2	100
Sulphur	1	1	0	0	1	9	48	27	10	3	1	1	100
Total	2	1	0	0	0	6	36	32	14	4	2	1	100

Note: All fertilisers includes other straight fertilisers (e.g. trace elements)

'Product' refers to the total tonnage of the products used by the farmers in the survey year 2025

'Nutrient' refers to the tonnage of each nutrient contained in the product used (e.g. 100kg of a 20:10:10 compound contains 20kg of N, 10kg of P₂O₅ and 10kg of K₂O, while 100kg of ammonium nitrate (straight N) contains typically 34.5kg of N)

Estimates of total nutrients are show in in Appendix 3, table AA 1.6

A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.1 Product type as percentage of all product used by crop group, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by column		Spring cereal	Winter cereal	Potatoes	Sugar beet	Oilseed rape	Other crops	All crops	Grass for grazing	Grass for hay	Grass for silage	Grass not spec	All grass	All crops and grass
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	%	28.6	34.1	8.1	20.0	28.2	19.2	30.2	22.0	25.2	23.9	27.3	24.5	28.8
Urea (+/-S)	%	9.7	14.5	0.7	6.6	13.8	7.7	12.4	9.9	8.7	10.2	16.0	10.1	11.8
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	%	8.0	8.1	1.2	7.5	7.6	4.8	7.6	8.8	4.9	8.9	8.4	8.9	7.9
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	%	17.4	22.0	5.2	14.9	32.3	11.9	20.5	3.4	6.9	3.4	2.8	3.7	16.4
Foliar Urea (+-S)	%	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.6	1.3	0.4	1.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	%	2.3	0.8	3.7	0.0	1.2	2.4	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	7.2	0.7	1.2
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	%	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.0	3.4	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.1
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	%	1.4	2.2	6.1	1.7	1.2	5.2	2.3	0.6	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.9
Other Straight Potash (K)	%	1.5	1.4	4.4	16.8	3.0	4.1	2.1	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.7	1.8
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	%	4.7	6.8	0.0	11.6	2.0	8.9	6.0	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.4	1.9	5.0
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	%	1.4	1.0	1.8	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.1	5.4	3.1	7.9	6.6	5.8	2.3
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	%	14.0	2.6	64.0	14.4	4.8	19.6	8.5	4.0	5.1	3.1	12.4	3.8	7.4
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	%	9.2	3.7	3.2	1.9	2.4	9.2	5.1	42.1	40.1	38.2	14.3	38.8	13.3
Other fertiliser product	%	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.5	1.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total product ('000 tonnes)	kt	406	1,355	58	38	170	122	2,149	728	141	516	6	879	3,028

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.2a Use of product type by crop group, split by type of crop, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	Spring cereal	Winter cereal	Potatoes	Sugar beet	Oilseed rape	Other crops	Percent of fertiliser product used on all crops
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	16.9	69.3	0.9	1.1	7.6	4.2	72.3
Urea (+/-S)	12.4	73.8	0.1	0.8	10.3	2.6	79.5
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	19.7	67.6	0.3	2.0	6.4	4.0	65.6
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	15.3	67.3	1.1	1.3	10.3	4.6	93.9
Foliar Urea (+-S)	8.1	84.9	0.0	0.5	5.4	1.1	99.3
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	29.9	41.4	6.2	0.0	7.5	15.0	71.7
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	21.8	53.9	2.5	2.9	4.3	14.6	92.9
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	16.3	53.9	9.4	1.0	4.1	15.4	90.4
Other Straight Potash (K)	13.1	40.1	10.8	16.4	12.9	6.7	93.6
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	16.5	67.1	0.0	3.6	3.3	9.6	89.6
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	35.7	49.0	2.0	1.1	5.4	6.9	21.1
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	38.8	24.2	18.9	2.9	5.1	10.0	84.6
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	43.5	38.7	2.1	0.4	3.6	11.7	19.3
Other fertiliser product	16.3	39.7	0.0	7.3	4.5	32.2	80.1
Total product	18.9	63.1	2.7	1.8	7.9	5.7	71.0

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.2b Use of product type on grass, split by type of grass, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	Grass for grazing %	Grass for hay %	Grass for silage %	Grass not specified %	Percent of fertiliser product used on all grass %
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	72.2	18.1	61.0	0.7	27.7
Urea (+/-S)	81.8	12.1	59.7	0.7	20.5
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	79.7	10.3	64.4	0.3	34.4
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	83.6	23.5	42.9	0.4	6.1
Foliar Urea (+-S)	100.0	68.6	8.4	0.0	0.7
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	97.6	46.1	81.2	2.4	28.3
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	90.7	0.0	24.9	0.4	7.1
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	76.1	38.1	64.3	0.0	9.6
Other Straight Potash (K)	67.1	21.2	64.5	0.0	6.4
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	97.5	46.5	21.4	1.3	10.4
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	68.5	13.6	75.1	4.8	78.9
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	88.1	27.7	31.3	1.2	15.4
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	92.1	13.1	57.9	0.1	80.7
Other fertiliser product	95.1	0.0	35.9	0.3	19.9
Total product	82.8	16.0	58.7	0.7	29.0

Note: The same grass field can have multiple uses in the same crop year, therefore percentages may sum to >100%

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.2c Total product use, split by crop group, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	All crops %	All grass %	All crops and grass %	Total product '000 tonnes
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	72.3	27.7	100.0	838
Urea (+/-S)	79.5	20.5	100.0	378
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	65.6	34.4	100.0	234
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	93.9	6.1	100.0	562
Foliar Urea (+-S)	99.3	0.7	100.0	36
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	71.7	28.3	100.0	35
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	92.9	7.1	100.0	28
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	100.0	c
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	90.4	9.6	100.0	48
Other Straight Potash (K)	93.6	6.4	100.0	49
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	89.6	10.4	100.0	126
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	21.1	78.9	100.0	71
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	84.6	15.4	100.0	200
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	19.3	80.7	100.0	412
Other fertiliser product	80.1	19.9	100.0	11
Total product	71.0	29.0	100.0	3,028

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB3.3 Product use by month of application, Great Britain, 2025

Percents by row	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total product
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000 tonnes
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	0.1	3.8	30.8	39.0	17.4	4.6	2.8	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	838
Urea (+/-S)	0.3	13.5	50.7	24.1	8.0	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	378
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	0.3	2.7	35.3	31.7	19.8	5.5	3.0	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	234
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	0.0	7.2	44.7	34.6	10.0	2.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	562
Foliar Urea (+-S)	0.0	0.0	14.3	20.9	10.1	53.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	0.5	8.4	47.7	11.6	28.9	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	35
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	0.0	0.6	36.0	21.1	9.3	1.1	0.0	0.5	11.2	5.0	15.1	0.0	28
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	1.7	3.2	42.2	26.6	10.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.8	4.5	3.9	0.0	48
Other Straight Potash (K)	3.4	13.1	47.2	23.5	2.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.0	6.1	2.4	0.0	49
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	0.2	5.4	27.7	11.3	1.5	0.2	4.4	2.3	21.3	23.6	2.1	0.0	126
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	0.0	5.3	23.4	20.4	15.4	19.2	9.2	5.4	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	71
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	0.0	8.3	27.5	37.1	14.7	3.0	0.4	1.9	5.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	200
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	0.0	0.9	17.1	39.5	24.1	9.5	5.2	2.8	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.0	412
Other fertiliser product	1.7	12.6	24.7	31.9	25.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11
Total product	0.2	5.7	34.3	32.9	14.7	5.0	2.5	1.3	1.7	1.4	0.3	0.0	3,028

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB4.1 Average fertiliser practice on cereal farms, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	91	5	8	20	142	c	51	129	c	4	31
Winter wheat	99	27	32	22	184	51	54	183	13	17	552
Spring barley	97	39	47	16	106	45	56	103	18	26	228
Winter barley	100	27	37	19	150	55	62	150	15	23	171
Oats	95	23	32	10	105	52	51	100	12	16	118
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	83	15	17	13	52	c	c	43	c	c	12
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Potatoes (maincrop)	91	55	55	50	102	c	c	93	c	c	7
Sugar beet	100	38	34	43	89	80	72	89	30	25	21
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Winter oilseed rape	99	27	33	34	168	58	49	167	16	16	136
Linseed	95	33	2	14	65	c	c	62	c	c	16
Forage maize	76	36	3	76	60	49	c	46	17	c	41
Rootcrops for stockfeed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Leafy forage crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Arable silage/other fodder crops	59	19	20	52	125	c	42	74	c	8	26
Peas – human consumption	9	25	20	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	11
Peas – animal consumption	0	12	13	6	c	c	c	c	c	c	26
Beans – animal consumption	1	19	19	3	c	52	41	c	10	8	133
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Vegetables (other)	82	88	44	2	c	c	c	c	c	c	6
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Other crops	68	6	5	3	79	c	c	54	c	c	31
All crops	90	28	32	21	154	51	55	139	14	18	1,578
Grass under 5 years old	53	10	20	16	107	27	46	56	3	9	99
Grass 5 years and over	29	10	9	6	61	26	35	18	2	3	261
All grass	36	10	12	9	79	26	40	28	2	5	360
All crops and grass	81	24	28	19	148	49	54	119	12	15	1,938

Note: The data in this table apply to farms in the 'cereals' Robust type, as detailed in Appendix 5
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB4.2 Average fertiliser practice on general cropping and horticultural farms, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	100	26	26	32	133	c	c	133	c	c	11
Winter wheat	100	26	34	25	180	57	73	179	15	25	161
Spring barley	98	52	53	22	105	50	65	103	26	35	109
Winter barley	99	46	50	23	150	49	74	148	23	37	56
Oats	95	16	18	25	107	52	63	102	8	11	35
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	97	25	13	11	141	c	c	136	c	c	8
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	100	49	86	0	151	113	131	151	55	113	6
Potatoes (maincrop)	92	67	80	27	137	97	195	126	65	157	34
Sugar beet	80	26	59	33	93	44	66	74	12	39	37
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Winter oilseed rape	97	23	27	42	179	37	51	173	8	14	51
Linseed	100	13	38	0	70	c	c	70	c	c	5
Forage maize	90	69	18	50	80	54	101	72	37	18	21
Rootcrops for stockfeed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Leafy forage crops	77	1	1	23	c	c	c	c	c	c	5
Arable silage/other fodder crops	15	4	6	13	c	c	c	c	c	c	15
Peas – human consumption	0	17	20	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	16
Peas – animal consumption	3	21	8	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	8
Beans – animal consumption	0	29	32	3	c	47	37	c	14	12	24
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Vegetables (other)	79	55	53	6	112	43	106	88	24	56	20
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Top fruit	90	0	53	0	25	c	15	23	c	8	11
Other crops	62	31	14	39	72	c	c	45	c	c	14
All crops	90	34	40	24	142	55	81	127	19	32	656
Grass under 5 years old	71	19	33	41	94	29	47	66	5	16	72
Grass 5 years and over	37	14	16	25	91	26	41	33	4	6	172
All grass	45	15	20	29	92	27	43	41	4	9	244
All crops and grass	74	28	33	26	132	50	73	98	14	24	900

Note: The data in this table apply to farms in the 'general cropping' and 'horticulture' Robust types, as detailed in Appendix 5
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB4.3 Average fertiliser practice on dairy farms, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	100	0	0	88	115	c	c	115	c	c	5
Winter wheat	89	33	30	54	155	36	38	138	12	12	53
Spring barley	79	28	28	82	93	28	42	74	8	12	26
Winter barley	90	34	26	62	133	38	51	119	13	13	25
Oats	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Potatoes (maincrop)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Sugar beet	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Winter oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Linseed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Forage maize	77	40	14	95	57	43	30	44	17	4	58
Rootcrops for stockfeed	96	33	33	96	c	c	c	c	c	c	5
Leafy forage crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Arable silage/other fodder crops	13	0	6	73	86	c	c	12	c	c	34
Peas – human consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Peas – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Beans – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Vegetables (other)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Other crops	23	0	0	23	c	c	c	c	c	c	7
All crops	73	30	20	74	106	40	43	78	12	8	224
Grass under 5 years old	82	14	19	82	136	19	31	111	3	6	124
Grass 5 years and over	75	24	28	61	134	21	51	101	5	14	303
All grass	76	22	26	66	134	21	48	103	5	12	427
All crops and grass	76	23	25	67	129	25	47	98	6	12	651

Note: The data in this table apply to farms in the 'dairy' Robust type, as detailed in Appendix 5

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB4.4 Average fertiliser practice on other livestock farms, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	98	8	8	8	c	c	c	c	c	c	5
Winter wheat	98	26	45	48	158	42	70	155	11	31	73
Spring barley	93	78	74	52	85	49	51	79	38	37	95
Winter barley	88	57	65	48	121	42	52	107	24	34	48
Oats	74	37	37	51	57	18	35	42	7	13	28
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Potatoes (maincrop)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Sugar beet	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Winter oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Linseed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Forage maize	53	10	21	69	77	56	c	41	6	c	29
Rootcrops for stockfeed	80	40	47	74	72	45	48	58	18	23	20
Leafy forage crops	66	64	64	38	62	33	36	41	21	23	27
Arable silage/other fodder crops	29	15	25	50	75	40	60	22	6	15	31
Peas – human consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Peas – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Beans – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Vegetables (other)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Other crops	5	5	8	23	c	c	c	c	c	c	7
All crops	74	45	50	51	101	45	59	75	20	29	373
Grass under 5 years old	70	45	49	51	81	24	37	57	11	18	344
Grass 5 years and over	39	25	26	37	66	18	20	26	4	5	1,157
All grass	43	27	28	39	69	19	23	29	5	7	1,501
All crops and grass	45	28	30	39	72	21	27	32	6	8	1,874

Note: The data in this table apply to farms in the 'LFA grazing livestock' and 'lowland grazing livestock' Robust types, as detailed in Appendix 5
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB4.5 Average fertiliser practice on mixed farms, Great Britain, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	100	7	0	12	145	c	c	145	c	c	10
Winter wheat	98	26	37	49	169	49	63	166	12	23	148
Spring barley	99	57	62	36	96	51	63	95	29	39	124
Winter barley	98	44	50	51	153	58	63	150	26	32	85
Oats	78	42	50	33	94	55	65	73	23	32	61
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Potatoes (maincrop)	100	100	100	54	112	138	194	112	138	194	5
Sugar beet	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Winter oilseed rape	100	36	26	35	185	67	60	185	24	16	23
Linseed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Forage maize	34	33	22	99	59	61	66	20	20	15	19
Rootcrops for stockfeed	88	61	61	51	78	120	95	69	73	58	12
Leafy forage crops	73	50	50	15	97	52	59	71	26	29	9
Arable silage/other fodder crops	44	0	34	26	152	c	85	67	c	28	19
Peas – human consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Peas – animal consumption	29	49	49	36	c	c	c	c	c	c	7
Beans – animal consumption	0	1	16	15	c	c	58	c	c	9	28
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Vegetables (other)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Other crops	83	56	56	9	c	c	c	c	c	c	5
All crops	88	37	45	43	136	56	65	120	21	29	563
Grass under 5 years old	73	38	42	31	112	39	53	82	15	22	98
Grass 5 years and over	46	24	24	13	66	16	22	30	4	5	204
All grass	52	27	28	17	81	23	32	42	6	9	302
All crops and grass	70	32	36	30	115	42	52	80	13	19	865

Note: The data in this table apply to farms in the 'mixed' Robust type, as detailed in Appendix 5
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table GB5.1 Average fertiliser practice on crops and grassland by River Basin District, Great Britain, 2025

River Basin District		Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Scotland (other than in Solway Tweed)	All crops	96	79	79	35	130	58	74	125	46	59	382
	All grass	59	42	41	25	75	25	34	44	11	14	303
	All crops and grass	74	57	57	29	104	44	57	77	25	32	685
Solway Tweed	All crops	86	35	49	32	147	47	71	126	17	35	129
	All grass	60	29	33	35	91	15	33	55	4	11	261
	All crops and grass	65	30	36	34	105	22	43	68	7	15	390
Northumbria	All crops	90	31	37	38	158	64	61	143	20	23	90
	All grass	29	18	16	29	69	27	26	20	5	4	129
	All crops and grass	45	22	22	31	117	41	42	53	9	9	219
Humber	All crops	90	27	35	31	151	55	67	136	15	23	705
	All grass	47	16	16	44	91	19	24	43	3	4	344
	All crops and grass	72	22	27	37	135	44	56	97	10	15	1,049
Anglian	All crops	90	26	26	15	152	48	61	136	12	16	795
	All grass	29	6	6	11	73	62	46	21	4	3	156
	All crops and grass	81	23	23	14	148	49	60	119	11	14	951
Thames	All crops	85	17	21	29	151	40	42	128	7	9	319
	All grass	32	5	8	23	88	21	31	28	1	2	167
	All crops and grass	62	12	15	26	137	37	39	85	4	6	486
South East	All crops	86	19	47	24	162	59	51	139	11	24	88
	All grass	23	16	17	30	120	29	34	28	5	6	48
	All crops and grass	60	18	35	27	155	48	48	92	8	16	136
South West	All crops	79	23	26	43	124	46	45	99	10	12	365
	All grass	40	15	17	39	88	18	28	35	3	5	455
	All crops and grass	50	17	20	40	104	28	34	52	5	7	820
Severn	All crops	82	19	26	41	131	41	54	108	8	14	434
	All grass	45	20	22	40	80	18	27	36	4	6	424
	All crops and grass	59	20	24	40	107	26	38	63	5	9	858
Western Wales	All crops	78	40	49	59	101	39	50	79	16	24	64
	All grass	64	43	45	50	91	19	30	58	8	14	282
	All crops and grass	64	43	46	50	92	20	31	59	9	14	346
Dee	All crops	51	46	33	77	42	15	7	22	7	2	15
	All grass	46	27	32	58	61	12	24	29	3	7	45
	All crops and grass	47	28	32	60	60	13	23	28	4	7	60
North West	All crops and grass	94	43	40	24	155	61	94	146	26	37	52
	All grass	58	24	28	45	115	15	27	67	4	8	233
	All crops and grass	62	26	30	42	123	25	39	77	7	12	285

Note: See Appendix 6 for a map showing River Basin Districts in Great Britain. Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW1.1 Total fertiliser use, England & Wales, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Spring wheat	95	7	7	61	24	138	41	45	48	130	3	3	29	61
Winter wheat	99	24	30	73	27	180	49	56	55	179	12	17	40	916
Spring barley	95	27	34	60	20	102	40	46	42	97	11	16	25	434
Winter barley	98	28	35	70	28	145	48	56	50	142	13	20	35	330
Oats	93	21	30	60	18	102	51	51	44	95	11	15	26	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	88	22	17	64	9	91	26	22	16	80	6	4	10	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	91	65	80	36	26	131	96	189	c	120	62	152	c	40
Sugar beet	84	29	54	63	40	92	53	66	41	77	16	36	26	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	99	20	26	74	35	169	55	47	71	167	11	12	53	187
Linseed	96	29	10	53	10	66	34	c	25	64	10	c	14	21
Forage maize	71	40	11	22	83	62	49	58	32	43	20	6	7	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	85	25	30	14	68	80	51	59	35	68	13	18	5	35
Leafy forage crops	55	22	22	12	25	46	12	15	c	25	3	3	c	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	26	6	9	18	44	124	45	83	47	32	3	8	8	109
Peas – human consumption	4	23	24	8	0	c	c	65	c	c	c	15	c	23
Peas – animal consumption	2	15	15	17	8	c	47	38	45	c	7	6	8	41
Beans – animal consumption	1	17	18	10	4	c	51	39	40	c	8	7	4	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Vegetables (other)	78	60	51	68	4	120	55	114	84	94	33	58	57	23
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	91	0	44	16	0	48	c	15	c	44	c	7	c	14
Other crops	57	14	8	35	22	75	36	113	37	43	5	9	13	62
All crops	87	24	29	60	28	147	49	59	52	128	12	17	31	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	68	21	29	25	51	104	24	35	42	71	5	10	11	593
Grass 5 years and over	41	20	21	13	37	85	18	27	39	35	4	6	5	1,790
All grass	45	20	22	15	39	89	19	29	40	40	4	6	6	2,383
All crops and grass	64	22	25	35	34	125	34	44	50	80	8	11	17	5,353

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2025

Table EW1.2 Use of straight fertiliser, England & Wales, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)			Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Spring wheat	92	2	2	139	c	c	129	c	c	61
Winter wheat	98	5	16	178	52	51	175	3	8	916
Spring barley	90	4	13	99	52	46	89	2	6	434
Winter barley	96	5	13	141	56	60	136	3	8	330
Oats	90	3	12	102	65	44	92	2	5	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	80	6	1	93	c	c	74	c	c	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	51	4	24	98	c	177	50	c	42	40
Sugar beet	76	4	30	93	c	71	71	c	21	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	96	4	18	169	49	44	161	2	8	187
Linseed	93	8	1	61	c	c	57	c	c	21
Forage maize	52	4	4	68	72	100	35	3	4	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	64	0	4	84	c	c	54	c	c	35
Leafy forage crops	40	0	0	49	c	c	20	c	c	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	23	2	5	130	c	118	30	c	6	109
Peas – human consumption	0	7	12	c	c	c	c	c	c	23
Peas – animal consumption	1	5	5	c	c	c	c	c	c	41
Beans – animal consumption	1	5	9	c	67	27	c	3	3	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Vegetables (other)	78	3	22	109	c	c	85	c	c	23
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	88	0	1	48	c	c	42	c	c	14
Other crops	54	0	5	74	c	c	40	c	c	62
All crops	83	5	14	147	57	56	122	3	8	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	51	0	3	103	c	56	53	c	2	593
Grass 5 years and over	23	0	0	96	68	72	22	0	0	1,790
All grass	27	0	1	98	67	63	26	0	0	2,383
All crops and grass	52	2	7	133	57	57	70	1	4	5,353

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2025

Table EW1.3 Use of compound fertiliser, England & Wales, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Spring wheat	4	5	5	4	c	39	59	c	c	2	3	c	61
Winter wheat	9	19	16	5	46	47	52	30	4	9	9	2	916
Spring barley	15	23	22	8	54	38	44	25	8	9	10	2	434
Winter barley	10	22	22	5	61	46	53	28	6	10	12	1	330
Oats	9	18	18	5	38	49	53	34	3	9	10	2	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	14	16	16	13	40	18	19	c	6	3	3	c	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	61	61	59	21	115	92	187	c	69	56	110	c	40
Sugar beet	13	25	25	13	50	45	60	25	6	11	15	3	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2
Winter oilseed rape	13	16	9	4	41	55	51	32	5	9	5	1	187
Linseed	27	21	9	12	27	26	c	c	7	5	c	c	21
Forage maize	36	38	7	1	22	45	28	c	8	17	2	c	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	21	25	27	2	69	51	54	c	14	13	14	c	35
Leafy forage crops	14	22	22	9	c	12	15	c	c	3	3	c	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	3	5	5	2	47	35	43	c	2	2	2	c	109
Peas – human consumption	4	16	12	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	23
Peas – animal consumption	1	10	10	4	c	39	42	c	c	4	4	c	41
Beans – animal consumption	0	12	12	1	c	44	40	c	c	5	5	c	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Vegetables (other)	38	57	29	20	c	56	97	c	c	32	28	c	23
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	43	0	43	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	14
Other crops	14	14	4	4	20	36	c	c	3	5	c	c	62
All crops	12	20	17	5	47	47	56	33	6	9	9	2	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	25	21	26	6	73	24	33	35	18	5	8	2	593
Grass 5 years and over	21	20	21	6	62	18	26	30	13	3	5	2	1,790
All grass	22	20	22	6	64	19	27	31	14	4	6	2	2,383
All crops and grass	17	20	19	6	58	31	38	32	10	6	7	2	5,353

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2025

Table EW1.4 Use of lime, England & Wales, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)						Average field rate (tonnes/ha)						Fields limed	Fields in Survey
	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All		
Spring wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2	61
Winter wheat	5.0	2.1	1.1	0.7	0.4	9.3	4.5	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.6	59	916
Spring barley	5.9	0.2	0.3	c	0.4	6.9	4.0	6.3	6.3	c	0.3	4.0	35	434
Winter barley	2.5	1.2	0.8	c	0.9	5.4	4.6	4.1	1.5	c	0.3	3.3	20	330
Oats	2.1	1.6	0.9	c	c	4.5	5.1	5.7	6.3	c	c	5.5	8	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	40
Sugar beet	11.1	2.5	c	31.5	2.3	47.4	4.7	7.2	c	4.7	8.8	5.1	26	64
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	2
Winter oilseed rape	6.8	0.1	0.5	2.4	0.4	10.2	4.7	3.2	1.5	5.0	0.1	4.4	17	187
Linseed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	21
Forage maize	4.7	0.1	0.4	0.3	c	5.5	4.2	3.0	5.0	5.0	c	4.3	11	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	17.0	1.6	1.9	c	1.3	21.8	6.3	5.0	5.0	c	0.5	5.8	10	35
Leafy forage crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4	109
Peas – human consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	23
Peas – animal consumption	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1	41
Beans – animal consumption	3.9	2.3	c	c	c	6.3	2.7	4.8	c	c	c	3.5	6	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	3
Vegetables (other)	14.4	5.6	c	c	29.9	49.9	1.4	4.0	c	c	0.4	1.1	6	23
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	4
Top fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	14
Other crops	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2	62
All crops	4.7	1.4	0.7	1.2	0.6	8.5	4.3	4.8	4.3	4.8	2.3	4.3	212	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	4.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	6.0	4.2	5.0	5.0	1.1	1.7	3.7	53	593
Grass 5 years and over	3.4	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.9	5.3	3.6	1.6	3.6	0.7	0.9	3.0	86	1,790
All grass	3.5	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.9	5.4	3.7	1.8	3.7	1.0	1.0	3.2	139	2,383
All crops and grass	4.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	6.8	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.5	1.5	3.8	351	5,353

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW1.5 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Nitrogen, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg N/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Spring wheat	%	5	0	10	5	6	12	19	13	25	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Winter wheat	%	1	1	1	5	4	7	10	14	19	18	8	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	916
Spring barley	%	5	2	10	7	20	25	24	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	434
Winter barley	%	2	0	3	5	6	16	20	24	16	6	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	330
Oats	%	7	1	5	11	22	33	18	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	%	12	2	36	0	7	5	28	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	%	9	0	7	4	13	23	7	19	9	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Sugar beet	%	16	4	8	20	5	36	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Spring oilseed rape	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Winter oilseed rape	%	1	0	3	2	4	12	11	15	21	13	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Linseed	%	4	6	9	47	27	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Forage maize	%	29	15	20	13	9	8	5	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	%	15	3	24	10	23	11	8	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Leafy forage crops	%	45	0	38	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	%	74	0	4	2	3	2	2	1	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Peas – human consumption	%	96	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Peas – animal consumption	%	98	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Beans – animal consumption	%	99	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vegetables (other)	%	22	4	0	7	18	18	0	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Soft fruit	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Top fruit	%	9	55	1	13	0	6	0	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Other crops	%	43	4	15	8	16	6	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
All crops	%	13	2	5	6	8	12	12	11	12	9	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	%	32	4	9	14	13	6	5	8	5	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	593
Grass 5 years and over	%	59	3	11	10	6	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,790
All grass	%	55	3	10	10	7	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383
All crops and grass	%	36	3	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	5,353

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025 Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Table EW1.6 Percentage of crop by field application rate – Phosphate, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Spring wheat	%	93	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Winter wheat	%	76	5	8	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	916
Spring barley	%	73	8	11	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	434
Winter barley	%	72	4	12	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330
Oats	%	79	5	4	8	3	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	%	78	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	%	35	1	6	9	30	5	3	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Sugar beet	%	71	12	4	2	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Spring oilseed rape	%	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Winter oilseed rape	%	80	2	4	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Linseed	%	71	14	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Forage maize	%	60	10	8	13	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	%	75	2	13	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Leafy forage crops	%	78	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	%	94	1	3	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Peas – human consumption	%	77	0	7	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Peas – animal consumption	%	85	0	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Beans – animal consumption	%	83	5	4	6	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vegetables (other)	%	40	1	48	3	0	0	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Soft fruit	%	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Top fruit	%	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Other crops	%	86	6	5	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
All crops	%	76	5	8	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	%	79	12	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	593
Grass 5 years and over	%	80	15	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,790
All grass	%	80	15	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383
All crops and grass	%	78	10	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,353

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025 Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Table EW1.7 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Potash, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg K ₂ O/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Spring wheat	%	93	2	2	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Winter wheat	%	70	6	7	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	916
Spring barley	%	66	9	11	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	434
Winter barley	%	65	6	7	11	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330
Oats	%	70	9	5	6	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	%	83	11	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	%	20	0	3	2	16	4	1	4	12	4	22	1	2	0	7	2	-	-	40
Sugar beet	%	46	16	8	9	11	3	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Spring oilseed rape	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Winter oilseed rape	%	74	3	11	9	2	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Linseed	%	90	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Forage maize	%	89	4	2	3	0	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	%	70	7	8	7	5	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Leafy forage crops	%	78	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	%	91	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Peas – human consumption	%	76	0	0	20	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Peas – animal consumption	%	85	2	12	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Beans – animal consumption	%	82	6	6	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vegetables (other)	%	49	1	10	3	11	0	8	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Soft fruit	%	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Top fruit	%	56	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Other crops	%	92	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
All crops	%	71	6	7	8	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	%	71	12	10	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	593
Grass 5 years and over	%	79	13	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,790
All grass	%	78	13	6	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383
All crops and grass	%	75	10	6	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,353

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025 Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Table EW1.8 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Sulphur, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg SO ₃ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Spring wheat	%	39	9	33	8	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Winter wheat	%	27	9	26	25	8	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	916
Spring barley	%	40	15	29	11	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	434
Winter barley	%	30	11	28	25	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330
Oats	%	40	9	32	15	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	%	36	57	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	%	64	1	7	6	12	3	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Sugar beet	%	37	29	15	10	6	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Spring oilseed rape	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Winter oilseed rape	%	26	6	16	18	21	9	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Linseed	%	47	20	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Forage maize	%	78	10	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165
Rootcrops for stockfeed	%	86	7	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Leafy forage crops	%	88	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Arable silage/other fodder crops	%	82	1	12	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Peas – human consumption	%	92	0	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Peas – animal consumption	%	83	2	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Beans – animal consumption	%	90	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187
Vegetables (brassicae)	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vegetables (other)	%	32	7	11	12	8	18	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Soft fruit	%	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Top fruit	%	84	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Other crops	%	65	11	18	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
All crops	%	40	10	23	17	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,970
Grass under 5 years old	%	75	7	8	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	593
Grass 5 years and over	%	87	6	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,790
All grass	%	85	6	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383
All crops and grass	%	65	8	12	9	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,353

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes should be treated with caution as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop.

Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed. Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025.

Table EW2.1 Average fertiliser practice by grassland utilisation, England & Wales, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Grazed not mown	29	15	14	9	21	69	16	19	39	20	2	3	4	1,033
Grazed mown	63	30	34	21	61	93	21	33	38	59	6	11	8	1,051
All grazings	42	21	22	14	37	83	19	27	39	35	4	6	5	2,084
Cut for silage - grazed	76	35	42	27	71	100	21	33	39	76	8	14	11	665
Cut for silage - not grazed	78	15	22	23	77	132	20	36	46	103	3	8	11	167
All cut for silage	77	31	38	26	73	107	21	34	40	82	7	13	11	832
Cut for hay - grazed	45	21	21	12	49	75	20	29	29	33	4	6	3	443
Cut for hay - not grazed	55	18	26	22	32	86	21	38	47	47	4	10	10	100
All cut for hay	47	20	22	14	45	77	20	31	35	36	4	7	5	543
All mowings	64	27	32	21	62	100	21	33	40	64	6	11	9	1,309
All grass	45	20	22	15	39	89	19	29	40	40	4	6	6	2,383

Note: A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW2.2 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Nitrogen, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg N/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	71	2	10	7	4	1	2	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,033
Grazed mown	%	37	5	11	14	10	5	6	4	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1,051
All grazings	%	58	3	11	10	6	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,084
Cut for silage – grazed	%	24	4	12	17	11	7	8	6	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	665
Cut for silage – not grazed	%	22	0	10	11	12	8	5	7	8	6	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	167
All cut for silage	%	23	4	12	16	12	7	7	6	5	3	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	832
Cut for hay – grazed	%	55	5	11	10	7	3	3	2	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443
Cut for hay – not grazed	%	45	4	9	15	12	5	1	5	0	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
All cut for hay	%	53	5	11	11	8	4	3	3	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	543
All mowings	%	36	4	11	14	10	6	5	5	3	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1,309
All grass	%	55	3	10	10	7	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW2.3 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Phosphate, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	85	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,033
Grazed mown	%	70	19	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,051
All grazings	%	79	15	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,084
Cut for silage - grazed	%	65	22	11	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	665
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	85	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167
All cut for silage	%	69	20	10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	832
Cut for hay - grazed	%	79	14	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	82	11	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
All cut for hay	%	80	13	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	543
All mowings	%	73	17	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,309
All grass	%	80	15	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW2.4 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Potash, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg K ₂ O/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	86	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,033
Grazed mown	%	66	17	11	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,051
All grazings	%	78	14	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,084
Cut for silage - grazed	%	58	20	14	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	665
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	78	11	8	1	0	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167
All cut for silage	%	62	18	13	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	832
Cut for hay - grazed	%	79	12	7	0	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	74	12	6	5	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
All cut for hay	%	78	12	7	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	543
All mowings	%	68	16	10	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,309
All grass	%	78	13	6	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW2.5 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Sulphur, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row		kg SO ₃ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	91	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,033
Grazed mown	%	79	9	5	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,051
All grazings	%	86	6	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,084
Cut for silage - grazed	%	73	12	7	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	665
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	77	7	7	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167
All cut for silage	%	74	11	7	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	832
Cut for hay - grazed	%	88	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	78	3	6	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
All cut for hay	%	86	6	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	543
All mowings	%	79	8	6	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,309
All grass	%	85	6	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,383

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.0a Product use by month of application, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	Sep %	Oct %	Nov %	Dec %	Jan %	Feb %	Mar %	Apr %	May %	Jun %	Jul %	Aug %	Total product %
Straight N	0	0	0	0	0	7	41	33	13	4	2	1	100
Straight P	13	6	17	0	0	1	40	13	8	1	0	1	100
Straight K	2	6	4	0	3	9	48	22	4	1	0	0	100
Compounds	5	6	0	0	0	5	25	27	15	8	5	3	100
All fertilisers	1	2	0	0	0	6	38	31	13	5	2	1	100

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.0b Nutrient use by month of application, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	Sep %	Oct %	Nov %	Dec %	Jan %	Feb %	Mar %	Apr %	May %	Jun %	Jul %	Aug %	Total nutrient %
Nitrogen	0	0	0	0	0	7	38	33	13	5	2	1	100
Phosphate	8	10	4	0	0	6	30	23	11	4	2	2	100
Potash	5	8	2	0	1	7	35	23	10	4	4	2	100
Sulphur	0	1	0	0	1	9	50	25	8	3	1	1	100
Total	1	2	0	0	0	7	39	30	12	4	2	1	100

Note: All fertilisers includes other straight fertilisers (e.g. trace elements)

'Product' refers to the total tonnage of the products used by the farmers in the survey year 2025

'Nutrient' refers to the tonnage of each nutrient contained in the products used, (e.g. 100kg of a 20:10:10 compound contains 20kg of N, 10kg of P₂O₅ and 10kg of K₂O, while 100kg of ammonium nitrate (straight N) contains typically 34.5kg of N)

Estimates of total nutrients are shown in Appendix 1, Table AA1.6

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.1 Product type as a percentage of all product used by crop group, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by column		Spring cereal	Winter cereal	Potato	Sugar beet	Oilseed rape	Other crops	All crops	Grass for grazing	Grass for hay	Grass for silage	Grass not spec	All grass	All crops and grass
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	%	34.0	35.7	9.1	20.0	30.5	22.8	32.8	25.4	28.1	27.6	35.1	28.0	31.7
Urea (+/-S)	%	13.0	15.8	0.9	6.6	14.7	6.6	13.9	11.3	9.0	12.2	20.6	11.5	13.3
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	%	6.6	6.6	1.5	7.5	7.6	5.5	6.5	9.3	5.2	10.1	6.7	9.4	7.1
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	%	21.0	22.2	5.0	14.9	30.5	13.3	21.4	3.7	6.7	3.8	3.5	4.0	17.4
Foliar Urea (+-S)	%	0.6	1.6	0.0	0.6	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	%	3.2	0.9	1.0	0.0	1.2	2.8	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.1	9.3	0.9	1.3
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	%	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.2	4.2	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.2
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	%	1.2	2.3	4.8	1.7	1.4	4.6	2.3	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.6	1.9
Other Straight Potash (K)	%	1.9	1.5	3.0	16.8	3.2	5.2	2.4	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.0	0.7	2.0
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	%	5.2	6.0	0.0	11.6	1.8	10.3	5.8	2.8	2.8	2.3	3.1	2.4	5.0
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	%	0.8	0.9	2.4	0.4	0.8	1.6	1.0	6.2	3.5	9.0	8.6	6.6	2.3
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	%	3.7	1.4	67.8	14.4	2.5	14.6	5.1	3.2	4.8	2.3	6.8	3.0	4.6
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	%	7.6	3.6	2.7	1.9	2.5	6.0	4.3	35.4	36.2	29.6	3.1	32.2	10.8
Other fertiliser product	%	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.5	2.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4
Total product ('000 tonnes)	kt	260	1,204	45	38	145	102	1,794	535	127	399	6	671	2,465

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.2a Use of product type on crops, split by type of crop, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	Spring cereal	Winter cereal	Potatoes	Sugar beet	Oilseed rape	Other crops	Percent of fertiliser product used on all crops
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	14.7	71.1	0.9	1.2	7.8	4.3	73.3
Urea (+/-S)	12.8	74.4	0.1	0.9	9.7	2.1	81.4
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	12.2	71.9	0.4	2.8	7.9	4.8	62.3
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	13.9	69.0	1.2	1.5	9.6	4.8	93.7
Foliar Urea (+-S)	8.2	85.5	0.0	0.5	4.7	1.1	99.3
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	32.6	43.3	1.4	0.0	6.8	16.0	70.2
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	14.1	59.1	2.5	3.3	4.9	16.0	92.5
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	12.4	61.6	7.8	1.2	4.7	12.3	92.4
Other Straight Potash (K)	12.6	41.3	8.3	17.6	12.9	7.2	94.0
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	15.7	64.8	0.0	4.4	3.5	11.6	87.3
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	21.3	53.1	3.5	1.9	9.5	10.8	13.7
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	10.6	30.1	31.9	6.2	5.4	15.8	82.5
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	34.7	51.8	1.4	0.6	5.3	6.2	18.3
Other fertiliser product	16.3	39.7	0.0	7.3	4.5	32.2	91.7
Total product	14.5	67.1	2.5	2.1	8.1	5.7	72.8

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.2b Use of product type on grass, split by type of grass, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	Grass for grazing %	Grass for hay %	Grass for silage %	Grass not specified %	Percent of fertiliser product used on all grass %
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	70.4	21.0	61.0	0.9	26.7
Urea (+/-S)	78.2	13.7	61.9	0.8	18.6
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	75.5	12.6	69.1	0.3	37.7
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	82.3	24.2	41.1	0.5	6.3
Foliar Urea (+-S)	100.0	68.6	8.4	0.0	0.7
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	97.6	46.7	82.1	2.4	29.8
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	90.0	0.0	18.9	0.4	7.5
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	61.8	58.6	45.3	0.0	7.6
Other Straight Potash (K)	62.5	24.1	59.5	0.0	6.0
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	97.5	46.5	21.4	1.3	12.7
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	66.8	14.3	73.8	5.1	86.3
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	86.3	45.2	27.9	1.7	17.5
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	91.0	15.5	57.7	0.0	81.7
Other fertiliser product	86.4	0.0	99.3	0.7	8.3
Total product	79.7	19.0	59.5	0.9	27.2

Note: The same grass field can have multiple uses in the same crop year, therefore percentages may sum to >100%.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.2c Total product use, split by crop group, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	All crops	All grass	All crops and grass	Total product
	%	%	%	'000 tonnes
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	73.3	26.7	100.0	741
Urea (+/-S)	81.4	18.6	100.0	348
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	62.3	37.7	100.0	173
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	93.7	6.3	100.0	497
Foliar Urea (+-S)	99.3	0.7	100.0	35
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	70.2	29.8	100.0	32
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	92.5	7.5	100.0	25
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	100.0	c
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	92.4	7.6	100.0	38
Other Straight Potash (K)	94.0	6.0	100.0	45
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	87.3	12.7	100.0	104
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	13.7	86.3	100.0	62
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	82.5	17.5	100.0	97
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	18.3	81.7	100.0	258
Other fertiliser product	91.7	8.3	100.0	10
Total product	72.8	27.2	100.0	2,465

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW3.3 Product use by month of application, England & Wales, 2025

Percents by row	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total product
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000 tonnes
Ammonium Nitrate (AN) (+/-S)	0.1	3.9	32.7	39.1	16.3	4.4	2.2	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	741
Urea (+/-S)	0.3	13.7	52.4	23.3	7.5	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	348
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) (+/-S)	0.3	3.1	37.0	32.4	15.3	6.5	3.2	1.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	173
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) (+/-S)	0.0	7.2	46.4	34.2	8.7	2.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	497
Foliar Urea (+-S)	0.0	0.0	14.5	21.2	8.7	53.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35
Other Straight Nitrogen (N) (+/-S)	0.5	6.7	50.8	9.5	29.5	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	32
Triple Superphosphate (TSP)	0.0	0.7	40.3	13.3	8.5	1.3	0.0	0.6	12.7	5.7	17.0	0.0	25
Other Straight Phosphate (P)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	2.2	3.8	50.3	21.3	6.5	1.6	0.7	0.4	2.6	5.7	4.9	0.0	38
Other Straight Potash (K)	3.7	14.1	46.7	22.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	6.6	2.6	0.0	45
Phosphate+Potash product (PK) (+/-S)	0.2	6.6	28.3	9.4	1.8	0.3	5.3	2.5	18.0	26.4	1.2	0.0	104
Nitrogen+Potash product (NK) (+/-S)	0.0	6.1	24.8	15.6	15.6	20.2	10.1	5.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	62
Low N NP/NPK product (<19% N) (+/-S)	0.0	15.1	30.5	24.1	18.0	4.4	0.8	0.7	5.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	97
High N NP/NPK product (>=19% N) (+/-S)	0.0	0.9	22.5	38.6	18.7	9.0	5.9	3.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.0	258
Other fertiliser product	1.9	14.4	28.3	36.6	14.1	3.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10
Total product	0.2	6.3	37.6	31.4	12.7	4.9	2.4	1.1	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.0	2,465

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW4.1a Average fertiliser practice on crops and grassland by GOR region, England & Wales, 2025

GOR Region		Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
North West	All crops	90	18	21	55	102	29	56	91	5	12	66
	All grass	61	24	30	46	108	15	33	66	3	10	318
	All crops and grass	64	23	29	47	107	16	34	69	4	10	384
North East	All crops	91	33	39	33	165	63	65	150	21	25	114
	All grass	31	18	17	26	71	28	30	22	5	5	140
	All crops and grass	49	23	24	28	125	44	48	62	10	11	254
Eastern	All crops	91	25	28	15	154	49	61	139	12	17	553
	All grass	27	2	9	9	90	36	47	24	1	4	100
	All crops and grass	81	22	25	14	151	49	61	123	11	15	653
Yorkshire and the Humber	All crops	91	30	37	29	156	58	74	141	17	27	531
	All grass	42	18	17	45	82	21	23	35	4	4	257
	All crops and grass	71	25	29	35	138	47	62	98	12	18	788
West Midlands	All crops	88	12	23	39	139	43	65	123	5	15	264
	All grass	44	12	16	46	90	18	40	40	2	6	174
	All crops and grass	65	12	19	42	121	30	54	79	4	10	438
East Midlands	All crops	88	25	26	19	149	44	51	131	11	13	418
	All grass	46	14	13	24	80	31	19	37	4	2	122
	All crops and grass	77	22	22	21	139	42	46	107	9	10	540
South West	All crops	77	26	29	41	122	40	40	94	11	12	551
	All grass	38	15	17	39	92	19	28	35	3	5	576
	All crops and grass	51	19	21	40	107	29	34	55	5	7	1,127
South East	All crops	85	18	30	28	158	56	57	135	10	17	346
	All grass	32	9	10	28	89	25	31	28	2	3	198
	All crops and grass	61	14	21	28	142	48	51	86	7	11	544
Wales	All crops	81	30	30	61	108	41	54	87	12	16	127
	All grass	58	37	39	48	82	18	26	48	7	10	498
	All crops and grass	60	36	38	49	85	19	28	51	7	11	625

Note: See Appendix 4 for a list of counties in GOR regions.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW4.1b Average fertiliser practice on crops and grassland by BSFP region, England & Wales, 2025

BSFP Region		Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Wessex	All crops	75	19	23	38	121	35	36	91	7	8	306
	All grass	26	11	11	31	106	20	32	28	2	4	242
	All crops and grass	46	14	16	34	116	28	34	53	4	5	548
Anglia	All crops	91	25	28	15	154	49	61	139	12	17	553
	All grass	27	2	9	9	90	36	47	24	1	4	100
	All crops and grass	81	22	25	14	151	49	61	123	11	15	653
Northern	All crops	88	28	37	29	142	65	71	125	18	27	115
	All grass	51	25	27	39	92	17	30	47	4	8	357
	All crops and grass	57	25	29	37	104	25	38	59	6	11	472
North East	All crops	91	30	36	31	158	58	72	144	17	26	573
	All grass	40	18	17	44	83	23	26	33	4	4	304
	All crops and grass	69	25	28	36	139	47	60	96	12	17	877
North Mercia	All crops	90	18	21	51	135	38	80	122	7	17	110
	All grass	57	13	19	48	116	19	33	66	2	6	137
	All crops and grass	67	14	20	49	123	25	47	82	4	9	247
South Mercia	All crops	82	18	27	34	139	38	48	115	7	13	220
	All grass	29	10	13	34	69	22	52	20	2	7	117
	All crops and grass	58	14	21	34	123	33	49	71	5	10	337
East Midlands	All crops	88	25	26	19	149	44	51	131	11	13	418
	All grass	46	14	13	24	80	31	19	37	4	2	122
	All crops and grass	77	22	22	21	139	42	46	107	9	10	540
South East	All crops	85	18	30	28	158	56	57	135	10	17	346
	All grass	32	9	10	28	89	25	31	28	2	3	198
	All crops and grass	61	14	21	28	142	48	51	86	7	11	544
South West	All crops	85	37	36	51	113	49	49	96	18	18	202
	All grass	50	20	23	47	87	19	27	44	4	6	308
	All crops and grass	58	23	26	48	95	29	34	55	7	9	510
Wales	All crops	81	30	30	61	108	41	54	87	12	16	127
	All grass	58	37	39	48	82	18	26	48	7	10	498
	All crops and grass	60	36	38	49	85	19	28	51	7	11	625

Note: See Appendix 4 for a list of counties in BSFP regions.

A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW4.1c Average fertiliser practice on crops and grassland by River Basin District, England & Wales 2025

River Basin District		Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Solway Tweed	All crops	95	35	48	39	161	50	68	154	18	33	48
	All grass	64	27	34	48	89	15	39	57	4	13	107
	All crops and grass	70	29	37	46	110	24	47	77	7	17	155
Northumbria	All crops	90	31	37	38	158	64	61	143	20	23	90
	All grass	29	18	16	29	69	27	26	20	5	4	129
	All crops and grass	45	22	22	31	117	41	42	53	9	9	219
Humber	All crops	90	27	35	31	151	55	67	136	15	23	705
	All grass	47	16	16	44	91	19	24	43	3	4	344
	All crops and grass	72	22	27	37	135	44	56	97	10	15	1,049
Anglian	All crops	90	26	26	15	152	48	61	136	12	16	795
	All grass	29	6	6	11	73	62	46	21	4	3	156
	All crops and grass	81	23	23	14	148	49	60	119	11	14	951
Thames	All crops	85	17	21	29	151	40	42	128	7	9	319
	All grass	32	5	8	23	88	21	31	28	1	2	167
	All crops and grass	62	12	15	26	137	37	39	85	4	6	486
South East	All crops	86	19	47	24	162	59	51	139	11	24	88
	All grass	23	16	17	30	120	29	34	28	5	6	48
	All crops and grass	60	18	35	27	155	48	48	92	8	16	136
South West	All crops	79	23	26	43	124	46	45	99	10	12	365
	All grass	40	15	17	39	88	18	28	35	3	5	455
	All crops and grass	50	17	20	40	104	28	34	52	5	7	820
Severn	All crops	82	19	26	41	131	41	54	108	8	14	434
	All grass	45	20	22	40	80	18	27	36	4	6	424
	All crops and grass	59	20	24	40	107	26	38	63	5	9	858
Western Wales	All crops	78	40	49	59	101	39	50	79	16	24	64
	All grass	64	43	45	50	91	19	30	58	8	14	282
	All crops and grass	64	43	46	50	92	20	31	59	9	14	346
Dee	All crops	51	46	33	77	42	15	7	22	7	2	15
	All grass	46	27	32	58	61	12	24	29	3	7	45
	All crops and grass	47	28	32	60	60	13	23	28	4	7	60
North West	All crops	94	43	40	24	155	61	94	146	26	37	52
	All grass	58	24	28	45	115	15	27	67	4	8	233
	All crops and grass	62	26	30	42	123	25	39	77	7	12	285

Note: See Appendix 6 for a map showing River Basin Districts in Great Britain.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table EW5.1 Total fertiliser use, England, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Spring wheat	94	7	7	63	21	138	41	45	48	131	3	3	30	59
Winter wheat	99	24	30	73	27	180	49	56	55	179	12	17	40	899
Spring barley	95	27	34	62	19	102	40	46	42	97	11	15	26	409
Winter barley	98	28	34	71	27	145	49	56	50	142	14	19	35	316
Oats	93	21	30	60	17	102	51	51	44	95	11	15	26	197
Rye/triticale/durum wheat	88	22	17	64	9	91	26	22	16	80	6	4	10	23
Potatoes (seed or earlies)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Potatoes (maincrop)	91	65	80	36	26	131	96	189	c	120	62	152	c	40
Sugar beet	84	30	55	63	40	92	53	66	41	77	16	36	26	63
Spring oilseed rape	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Winter oilseed rape	99	20	26	74	36	169	55	47	71	167	11	12	53	184
Linseed	96	29	10	52	8	67	34	c	26	64	10	c	13	20
Forage maize	71	39	11	23	82	64	49	60	32	45	19	6	7	145
Rootcrops for stockfeed	94	12	16	18	68	86	69	86	35	81	9	14	6	23
Leafy forage crops	39	12	12	0	23	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	10
Arable silage/other fodder crops	25	5	8	18	42	130	50	93	46	33	3	7	8	99
Peas – human consumption	4	23	24	8	0	c	c	65	c	c	c	15	c	23
Peas – animal consumption	2	15	15	17	8	c	47	38	45	c	7	6	8	41
Beans – animal consumption	1	16	19	10	4	c	51	39	40	c	8	7	4	185
Vegetables (brassicae)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
Vegetables (other)	78	60	51	68	4	120	55	114	84	94	33	58	57	23
Soft fruit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Top fruit	91	0	44	16	0	48	c	15	c	44	c	7	c	14
Other crops	57	13	8	36	21	76	35	117	37	43	5	9	13	59
All crops	87	24	29	61	27	148	50	59	52	129	12	17	32	2,843
Grass under 5 years old	66	15	22	26	48	107	27	41	39	70	4	9	10	446
Grass 5 years and over	37	15	17	12	35	87	19	28	39	32	3	5	5	1,439
All grass	41	15	17	14	37	92	20	30	39	38	3	5	6	1,885
All crops and grass	65	20	23	38	32	131	38	49	50	84	8	11	19	4,728

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.
Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.1 Total fertiliser use, Scotland, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Winter wheat	98	62	66	78	24	182	61	81	55	177	38	53	43	88
Spring barley	98	88	87	54	37	101	52	67	36	99	46	59	19	156
Winter barley	99	72	77	79	43	163	60	78	59	161	43	60	47	60
Oats	75	58	58	40	18	101	51	66	38	75	30	39	15	42
Potatoes	100	93	72	37	47	118	141	207	c	118	131	148	c	12
Winter oilseed rape	100	74	65	77	41	192	56	59	73	192	41	39	57	27
Other crops	73	45	61	25	34	99	52	71	42	73	23	43	10	83
All crops	94	74	76	59	34	131	57	74	49	123	42	56	28	468
Grass under 5 years old	75	55	59	29	36	97	30	50	32	73	16	29	9	147
Grass 5 years and over	54	34	34	16	24	75	19	25	25	40	7	8	4	317
All grass	58	38	39	18	26	80	22	32	27	47	9	12	5	464
All crops and grass	71	51	51	32	29	104	40	53	41	73	20	27	13	932

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes are not shown as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop. These applications cannot be separated from those intended as a fertiliser nutrient.

A time series of this data is available to download separately at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.2 Use of straight fertiliser, Scotland, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)			Average field rate (kg/ha)			Overall application rate (kg/ha)			Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	
Winter wheat	98	2	11	165	c	54	161	c	6	88
Spring barley	76	6	8	74	70	87	56	4	7	156
Winter barley	99	2	11	139	c	71	138	c	8	60
Oats	65	3	5	85	c	c	55	c	c	42
Potatoes	61	5	55	57	c	172	35	c	95	12
Winter oilseed rape	100	0	12	172	c	c	172	c	c	27
Other crops	39	1	20	108	c	107	42	c	21	83
All crops	79	4	11	114	66	90	91	2	10	468
Grass under 5 years old	26	1	3	110	c	c	29	c	c	147
Grass 5 years and over	24	0	0	72	c	42	17	c	0	317
All grass	24	0	1	80	c	114	20	c	1	464
All crops and grass	43	1	4	102	64	93	44	1	4	932

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.3 Use of compound fertiliser, Scotland, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)				Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Winter wheat	36	60	61	27	46	60	78	30	17	36	48	8	88
Spring barley	79	83	79	31	55	50	65	30	43	42	52	9	156
Winter barley	49	70	72	44	49	61	72	31	24	43	52	14	60
Oats	44	55	53	20	47	50	65	30	20	28	35	6	42
Potatoes	88	88	35	22	95	146	154	c	84	128	53	c	12
Winter oilseed rape	70	74	58	24	28	56	53	20	20	41	31	5	27
Other crops	43	44	41	9	71	52	53	31	31	23	22	3	83
All crops	61	71	67	28	54	56	68	30	33	40	46	9	468
Grass under 5 years old	56	54	56	15	78	30	45	27	44	16	25	4	147
Grass 5 years and over	34	34	33	9	68	19	24	22	23	7	8	2	317
All grass	39	38	38	10	71	22	30	24	27	8	12	2	464
All crops and grass	46	49	48	16	63	39	49	28	29	19	23	5	932

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.4 Use of lime, Scotland, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)						Average field rate (tonnes/ha)						Fields limed	Fields in survey
	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All	Limestone (ground, screened)	Chalk	Magnesian limestone	Sugar beet lime	Other	All		
Winter wheat	10.2	c	6.1	c	0.3	16.6	4.3	c	4.5	c	5.0	4.4	14	88
Spring barley	20.5	1.1	3.6	c	1.4	26.5	4.0	5.0	3.5	c	0.4	3.8	36	156
Winter barley	7.9	c	2.4	c	0.5	10.9	5.0	c	3.3	c	5.0	4.6	5	60
Oats	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2	42
Potatoes	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	0	12
Winter oilseed rape	9.6	c	8.0	c	c	17.6	4.3	c	2.5	c	c	3.5	5	27
Other crops	15.0	c	2.3	c	c	17.3	5.0	c	5.0	c	c	5.0	12	83
All crops	14.3	0.5	3.9	c	0.7	19.4	4.3	5.0	3.9	c	1.2	4.1	74	468
Grass under 5 years old	14.6	c	5.2	c	0.2	20.1	4.6	c	3.4	c	0.3	4.2	24	147
Grass 5 years and over	6.1	c	0.2	c	0.9	7.2	4.4	c	5.0	c	0.7	3.9	32	317
All grass	7.8	c	1.2	c	0.8	9.8	4.4	c	3.6	c	0.7	4.0	56	464
All crops and grass	10.1	0.2	2.1	c	0.8	13.1	4.4	5.0	3.7	c	0.9	4.1	130	932

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.5 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Nitrogen, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row		kg N/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Winter wheat	%	2	0	1	3	1	1	10	27	18	30	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Spring barley	%	2	0	2	18	23	32	21	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Winter barley	%	1	0	1	0	3	6	14	38	27	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Oats	%	25	0	0	20	13	26	12	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Potatoes	%	0	0	0	21	30	15	15	6	0	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Winter oilseed rape	%	0	3	0	0	0	7	0	20	19	22	22	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Other crops	%	27	7	2	11	15	16	13	8	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
All crops	%	6	1	2	11	14	19	15	13	8	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	468
Grass under 5 years old	%	25	2	14	22	4	13	10	3	2	1	0	2	0	3	-	-	-	-	147
Grass 5 years and over	%	46	4	14	15	9	3	3	4	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317
All grass	%	42	4	14	17	8	5	5	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	464
All crops and grass	%	29	3	10	15	10	10	8	7	3	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	932

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.6 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Phosphate, Scotland 2025

Percents by row		kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Winter wheat	%	38	0	15	35	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Spring barley	%	12	7	29	43	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Winter barley	%	28	4	12	34	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Oats	%	42	6	16	31	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Potatoes	%	7	0	9	9	0	15	0	14	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Winter oilseed rape	%	26	7	18	34	13	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Other crops	%	55	13	6	19	5	0	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
All crops	%	26	6	20	36	8	3	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	468
Grass under 5 years old	%	45	32	13	7	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147
Grass 5 years and over	%	66	25	7	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317
All grass	%	62	26	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464
All crops and grass	%	49	19	12	14	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	932

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.7 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Potash, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row		kg K ₂ O/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Winter wheat	%	34	4	10	13	21	10	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Spring barley	%	13	3	16	38	23	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Winter barley	%	23	4	8	20	38	3	1	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Oats	%	42	0	14	27	9	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Potatoes	%	28	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	15	26	8	0	13	-	-	-	-	-	12
Winter oilseed rape	%	35	3	16	38	8	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Other crops	%	39	12	4	24	10	4	0	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
All crops	%	24	4	12	28	21	4	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	468
Grass under 5 years old	%	41	18	19	13	0	2	1	3	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147
Grass 5 years and over	%	66	21	8	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317
All grass	%	61	21	11	4	1	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464
All crops and grass	%	49	15	11	12	8	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	932

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC1.8 Percentage of crop area by field application rate – Sulphur, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row		kg SO ₃ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Winter wheat	%	22	7	25	30	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Spring barley	%	46	18	25	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Winter barley	%	21	8	24	23	19	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Oats	%	60	13	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Potatoes	%	63	0	11	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	-	-	-	-	12
Winter oilseed rape	%	23	6	19	21	22	0	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Other crops	%	75	2	20	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
All crops	%	41	11	23	16	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	468
Grass under 5 years old	%	71	14	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147
Grass 5 years and over	%	84	7	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	317
All grass	%	82	9	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464
All crops and grass	%	68	10	13	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	932

Note: The symbol '-' in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Note: Sulphur rates on potatoes should be treated with caution as some growers apply additional sulphur to acidify the soil for this crop.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC2.1 Average fertiliser practice by grassland utilisation, Scotland, 2025

	Crop area receiving dressing (%)					Average field rate (kg/ha)				Overall application rate (kg/ha)				Fields in Survey
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	FYM	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	SO ₃	
Grazed not mown	46	26	26	14	12	61	19	21	21	28	5	6	3	227
Grazed mown	83	63	65	27	54	96	23	38	32	79	15	24	9	214
All grazings	58	38	39	18	26	77	21	30	26	45	8	12	5	441
Cut for silage - grazed	85	63	65	30	56	102	25	41	32	86	16	26	10	181
Cut for silage - not grazed	92	50	50	41	72	183	64	108	47	167	32	54	19	11
All cut for silage	85	62	64	31	58	108	27	44	34	92	17	28	10	192
Cut for hay - grazed	74	65	65	16	44	62	15	24	29	46	10	16	5	35
Cut for hay - not grazed	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	3
All cut for hay	74	65	65	17	43	66	16	28	35	49	10	18	6	38
All mowings	83	63	64	28	55	101	25	41	33	84	16	26	9	227
All grass	58	38	39	18	26	80	22	32	27	47	9	12	5	464

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC2.2 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Nitrogen, Scotland 2025

Percents by row		kg N/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	54	5	15	15	7	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
Grazed mown	%	17	1	15	22	9	12	12	7	1	2	0	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	214
All grazings	%	42	4	15	17	8	5	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	441
Cut for silage - grazed	%	15	1	8	25	11	12	14	7	1	2	0	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	181
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	8	0	1	11	2	9	0	29	0	0	0	35	0	4	-	-	-	-	11
All cut for silage	%	15	1	8	24	10	12	13	9	1	2	0	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	192
Cut for hay - grazed	%	26	0	47	7	1	11	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All cut for hay	%	26	1	46	7	1	11	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	38
All mowings	%	17	1	14	21	9	12	11	9	1	2	0	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	227
All grass	%	42	4	14	17	8	5	5	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	464

Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC2.3 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Phosphate, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row		kg P ₂ O ₅ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	74	20	4	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
Grazed mown	%	37	41	16	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	214
All grazings	%	62	27	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441
Cut for silage - grazed	%	37	38	18	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	50	1	19	4	15	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
All cut for silage	%	38	35	18	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192
Cut for hay - grazed	%	35	54	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All cut for hay	%	35	53	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
All mowings	%	37	39	17	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
All grass	%	62	26	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464

Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC2.4 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Potash, Scotland 2025

Percents by row		kg K ₂ O/ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	74	18	6	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
Grazed mown	%	35	28	20	11	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	214
All grazings	%	61	21	11	4	1	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441
Cut for silage - grazed	%	35	24	22	11	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	50	1	6	0	15	13	0	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
All cut for silage	%	36	23	21	11	3	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192
Cut for hay - grazed	%	35	43	11	10	1	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All cut for hay	%	35	42	10	9	1	0	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
All mowings	%	36	26	19	10	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
All grass	%	61	21	11	4	1	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464

Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC2.5 Percentage of grass area by field application rate – Sulphur, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row		kg SO ₃ /ha																		Fields in Survey
		0	<25	25-	50-	75-	100-	125-	150-	175-	200-	225-	250-	275-	300-	325-	350-	375-	400+	
Grazed not mown	%	86	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
Grazed mown	%	73	11	12	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	214
All grazings	%	82	9	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441
Cut for silage - grazed	%	70	13	12	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Cut for silage - not grazed	%	59	9	15	13	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
All cut for silage	%	69	13	12	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192
Cut for hay - grazed	%	84	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cut for hay - not grazed	%	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All cut for hay	%	83	3	13	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
All mowings	%	72	11	12	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
All grass	%	82	9	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	464

Note: The symbol ‘-’ in a cell represents zero application after the highest rate, for visual clarity in interpreting the data displayed.

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC3.0a Product use by month of application, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row	Sep %	Oct %	Nov %	Dec %	Jan %	Feb %	Mar %	Apr %	May %	Jun %	Jul %	Aug %	Total product %
Straight N	0	0	0	0	0	5	25	35	25	4	4	1	100
Straight P	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	81	16	0	0	0	100
Straight K	3	0	0	0	0	1	23	44	21	0	5	4	100
Compounds	5	1	1	0	0	1	15	43	22	7	2	3	100
All fertilisers	3	1	0	0	0	3	20	40	24	5	3	2	100

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

Table SC3.0b Nutrient use by month of application, Scotland, 2025

Percents by row	Sep %	Oct %	Nov %	Dec %	Jan %	Feb %	Mar %	Apr %	May %	Jun %	Jul %	Aug %	Total nutrient %
Nitrogen	1	0	0	0	0	4	20	39	25	6	4	2	100
Phosphate	10	2	1	0	0	1	19	42	17	4	1	3	100
Potash	8	2	1	0	0	1	20	43	16	4	2	3	100
Sulphur	2	0	0	0	0	4	33	35	18	4	2	1	100
Total	4	1	0	0	0	3	21	40	21	5	3	2	100

Note: All fertilisers includes other straight fertilisers (e.g. trace elements)

'Product' refers to the total tonnage of the products used by the farmers in the survey year 2025

'Nutrient' refers to the tonnage of each nutrient contained in the products used, (e.g. 100kg of a 20:10:10 compound contains 20kg of N, 10kg of P₂O₅ and 10kg of K₂O, while 100kg of ammonium nitrate (straight N) contains typically 34.5kg of N)

Estimates of total nutrients are shown in Appendix 1, Table AA1.6

Source: British Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 2025

APPENDIX 3 – REPORT HISTORY, DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

APP 3.1 INTRODUCTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice (BSFP) is the primary source of data on organic and inorganic fertiliser use in Great Britain. The results from the Survey are used by the British fertiliser industry, by Government and by the wider agricultural and environmental community. It is essential that the claims made from the Survey are underpinned by an effective methodology. Section AA2 describes this methodology, detailing measures undertaken to avoid bias and unreliability. National changes in relative cropping areas are discussed in Section AA3.

Section A provides a commentary of recent changes in survey data and longer-term trends. It includes estimates of total fertiliser use which are given in Table AA1.7. These data are derived from BSFP findings, confidential trade and sales data and HMRC import/export statistics. Appendix 2 presents the main tables of results from the Survey, grouped by geographic coverage. They include major crop groups, grassland, product types and farm types plus information on timing of applications. Figures for estimates of 'total', 'straight' and 'compound' nutrient rates are presented in separate tables. Section B provides an analysis of the application of organic manures and manufactured fertilisers. Section C contains more general information on farm practices such as spreader checking, record keeping and soil testing. Datasets for key data series are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/british-survey-of-fertiliser-practice-dataset>

APP 3.1.1 HISTORY

The Survey has been in existence, in various forms, since 1942 for England & Wales. It was extended to Scotland in 1983. Historical data from 1942 to 1997 have been summarised in several reviews spanning this period^{7, 8, 9, 10}. Since 1992 the Survey has reported amalgamated data for Great Britain, in addition to the results for England & Wales and for Scotland. Weighted results for the major combinable crops and grassland were also recalculated from the national surveys to provide additional data for these crops for Great Britain from 1983.

The current methods of survey design and implementation are the result of adaptation of the original design from Rothamsted Experimental Station, undertaken by Edinburgh Data Library at the University of Edinburgh between 1992 and 1998. From 1999 until 2003 design and analysis was undertaken by the Rural Business Unit at the University of Cambridge and from 2004 by Kynetec (formerly GfK Kynetec), who also retained responsibility for conducting the fieldwork. Under Government rules, the contract for the Survey was retendered in 2018 and Kynetec were awarded the contract again.

⁷ Yates, F. and Boyd, D.A. (1965). Two decades of Surveys of Fertiliser Practice. *Outlook on Agriculture* **5**, 203-210.

⁸ Church, B.M. and Lewis, D.A. (1977). Fertiliser use on farm crops, England and Wales: Information from the Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 1942-1976. *Outlook on Agriculture* **9**, 186-193.

⁹ Chalmers, A.G., Kershaw, C.D. and Leech, P.K. (1990). Fertiliser use on farm crops in Great Britain: Results from the Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 1969-1988. *Outlook on Agriculture* **19**, 269-278.

¹⁰ Chalmers, A.G., Renwick, A.W., Johnston, A.E. and Dawson, C.J. (1999). Design, development and use of a national survey of fertiliser applications. *Proceedings International Fertiliser Society* **437**.

APP 3.2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

APP 3.2.1 SAMPLE

This Survey is based on a sample of holdings in order to reduce burdens and manage resources. The Survey sample is selected from the population of agricultural holdings compiled by Defra and Devolved Administrations using the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture (large sample surveys conducted annually at national level which record information on farm size, cropping, stocking and employment, to be referred to as the 'June Agricultural Survey'). In each year, two samples are extracted from the June Agricultural Survey, one for England & Wales and one for Scotland. The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice only includes holdings with a total area of equal to, or more than, 20 hectares under crops and grass (excluding rough grazing). Section APP 3.2.1.1 illustrates more information regarding minor holdings.

In England & Wales, farms are classified into one of three types, cropping, livestock and horticulture. Farms are then further classified into four size groups. In Scotland, a similar number of size groups are used but farms are classified into only two types, 'mainly cropping' and 'mainly livestock'.

These higher-level farm types are based on groupings of the standard UK farm classifications (called 'Robust' types). Farms with a Robust type of 'Other' (Robust type 10) are not included in the sample. See APP 3.2.7 paragraph 10 for more details.

In 2025, the target sample size was 1,500 farms. This sample size has been designed to achieve a statistically representative sample at the national level. The number of farms to be sampled is allocated to each of the farm type and size combinations (strata) in proportion to the total area of crops and grass recorded in the June Agricultural Survey (using the latest available data). The exception to this is for horticultural farms in England and Wales, which are sampled at a higher rate to ensure sufficient numbers for a robust estimate to be made. See Tables AA3.1 and AA3.2 for the number of farms selected.

The sampling methodology was reviewed in 2025, to ensure it still provided the most representative view of the national level. Alongside the incumbent methodology, the following options were also considered: sample based on holding distribution, sample based on area distribution, sample based on the geo mean of both holdings and area distribution and sample based on optimal Neyman allocation. By running key data points through each sample option, it was confirmed that the current methodology provided the most representative view at a national level.

To help improve the Survey response and to reduce the year-on-year variability, a core of respondents completes the Survey each year. This approach was introduced in 2000, when approximately one third of the sample agreed to stay in the Survey for a number of years. Between 2006 and 2007 a review of the panel structure was undertaken to ensure that the proportion of respondents who had participated on the panel for five consecutive years or more constituted no more than 20% of the total sample. In 2025, 75% of the panel had responded in the previous year. The profile of the Survey panel in terms of farm size was 74% >200ha, 74% 100-200ha, 75% 50-100ha and 83% >20-50ha. To construct the sample, a specific farm for each sampling point is identified to create the main cohort. In addition, a pool of reserves is also provided for use in the case of non-response, until the minimum sample size is met.

For the 2025 BSFP the achieved sample size was 1,307 holdings, one more holding than in 2024. It should be noted that the underlying sample design is constructed to measure manufactured fertiliser usage and may not wholly represent the population of farmers using organic manures, so some of these data, especially where sample sizes are small, need to be treated with appropriate caution.

The sample responses are raised to be representative of the national population by using the inverse of the achieved sampling fraction (i.e. the number of holdings in the population is divided by the achieved sample size in each strata) as the weight. The validity of the derived weights is assessed by calculating a weighted crop area for the most extensively grown crops by this method and comparing this to the latest available crop area estimates from the June Agricultural Survey.

Table AA3.1 Derivation of the stratified random sample for the 2025 Survey, England & Wales

	Farm holdings population in 2025	Total crops and grass in 2025 (%)	Notional sampling fraction ¹ (%)	Target sample size	Achieved sample size	Achieved sample fraction ² (%)
Livestock and mixed						
(Robust types: specialist pigs, specialist poultry, dairy, cattle and sheep (LFA & lowland), mixed)						
Crops & grass area						
20-50 ha	15,197	5.9%	0.48%	73	79	0.52%
51-100 ha	12,560	10.5%	1.04%	130	143	1.14%
101-200 ha	9,240	14.9%	2.00%	185	178	1.93%
200+ ha	4,576	19.3%	5.21%	239	217	4.74%
Total livestock & mixed	41,573	50.7%	1.51%	626	617	1.48%
Crops						
(Robust types: cereals, general cropping)						
Crops & grass area						
20-50 ha	8,003	3.1%	0.48%	38	45	0.56%
51-100 ha	6,240	5.2%	1.03%	64	62	0.99%
101-200 ha	5,404	9.0%	2.06%	111	128	2.37%
200+ ha	5,897	30.4%	6.36%	375	241	4.09%
Total crops	25,544	47.7%	2.31%	589	476	1.86%
Horticulture						
(Robust type: horticulture)						
Crops & grass area						
20-50 ha	601	0.2%	0.79%	5	2	0.33%
51-100 ha	403	0.3%	1.74%	7	3	0.74%
101-200 ha	250	0.5%	3.79%	9	1	0.40%
200+ ha	139	0.7%	9.91%	14	4	2.88%
Total horticulture	1,393	1.7%	2.51%	35	10	0.72%
Total for England & Wales	68,510	100%		1,250	1,103	1.61%

¹ The notional sampling fraction is found by expressing the target sample size as a percentage of the farm holdings in population in 2025.

² The achieved sampling fraction is found by expressing the achieved sample size as a percentage of the farm holdings in population in 2025.

Table AA3.2 Derivation of the stratified random sample for the 2025 Survey, Scotland

	Farm holdings population in 2025	Total crops and grass in 2025 (%)	Notional sampling fraction ¹ (%)	Target sample size	Achieved sample size	Achieved sample fraction ² (%)
Cereal/general						
(Robust types: cereals, general cropping, horticulture)						
Crops & grass area						
20-50 ha	697	1.4%	0.49%	3	4	0.57%
51-100 ha	903	3.8%	1.04%	9	10	1.11%
101-200 ha	958	7.8%	2.05%	20	15	1.57%
200+ ha	642	13.2%	5.14%	33	27	4.21%
Total cereals/general	3,200	26.2%	2.04%	65	56	1.75%
Livestock and mixed						
(Robust types: specialist pigs, specialist poultry, dairy, cattle and sheep (LFA & lowland), mixed)						
Crops & grass area						
20-50 ha	4,287	8.0%	0.47%	20	14	0.33%
51-100 ha	3,390	14.0%	1.03%	35	24	0.71%
101-200 ha	2,794	22.4%	2.00%	56	45	1.61%
200+ ha	1,514	29.5%	4.87%	74	65	4.29%
Total livestock & mixed	11,985	73.8%	1.54%	185	148	1.23%
Total Scotland	15,185	100%		250	204	1.34%

¹ The notional sampling fraction is found by expressing the target sample size as a percentage of the farm holdings in the population in 2025.

² The achieved sampling fraction is found by expressing the achieved sample size as a percentage of the farm holdings in the population in 2025.

APP 3.2.1.1 Information on minor holdings

Holdings with only 20 hectares or less allotted to crops and grass (in total) are excluded from the BSFP sample. These smaller farms account for a significant proportion of the number of holdings but a much smaller proportion of the area of crops and grass. Using the 20 hectare threshold reduces the number of farms which need to be sampled so reducing burdens and costs without significant adverse impact on the survey coverage and hence the quality of the data. Table AA3.2.1 illustrates the scale of minor holdings in Great Britain (2025), enabling an understanding of the scale of minor holdings that are excluded from the survey, and therefore not represented by the statistics in this report.

Minor holdings account for 49% of all agricultural holdings but only 1% of crop area and 8% of grassland.

Table AA3.2.1 Holdings below and above the BSFP minimum threshold in Great Britain, 2025

	Below BSFP threshold	Above BSFP threshold	All agricultural holdings in Great Britain	Share (%) on holdings below BSFP threshold
Number of holdings	83,516	85,867	169,383	49%
Total crop area (ha)	48,520	4,712,672	4,761,191	1%
Total grass area (excluding rough grazing) (ha)	468,410	5,771,601	6,240,011	8%
Total crops and grass area (ha)	516,931	10,484,273	11,001,203	5%

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture, Welsh Government and ScotGov.

APP 3.2.1.2 SAMPLING VARIATION

Table AA3.2.2a Standard errors of application rates for the major crops in Great Britain, 2025

Standard errors for overall application rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	2.5	2.7	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.4	1,004
Oilseed rape	4.2	4.4	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.9	216
Winter barley	2.7	3.1	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.8	390
Spring barley	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	590
Maincrop potatoes	9.6	8.5	11.2	9.7	17.7	9.8	48
Sugar beet	5.7	6.1	3.0	3.9	6.1	4.5	64
All crops	2.0	2.2	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	3,438
All grass	1.6	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.5	2,847

Standard errors for average field rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	2.3	2.4	5.4	1.8	2.2	1.4	1,004
Oilseed rape	3.8	3.7	5.4	3.4	3.0	2.6	216
Winter barley	2.4	2.6	4.8	2.0	2.5	1.9	390
Spring barley	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.6	590
Maincrop potatoes	8.7	10.1	11.5	8.9	16.6	15.1	48
Sugar beet	4.7	4.7	14.1	8.5	8.2	5.9	64
All crops	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.3	2.0	1.2	3,438
All grass	1.9	2.4	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.8	2,847

Table AA3.2.2b Standard errors of application rates for the major crops in England & Wales, 2025

Standard errors for overall application rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	2.7	2.9	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.5	916
Oilseed rape	4.5	4.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	3.1	189
Winter barley	2.9	3.4	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.9	330
Spring barley	2.2	2.5	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	434
Maincrop potatoes	10.9	9.7	12.6	10.2	19.5	8.7	40
Sugar beet	5.7	6.1	3.0	3.9	6.1	4.5	64
All crops	2.3	2.4	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.0	2,970
All grass	1.7	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.6	2,383

Standard errors for average field rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	2.5	2.6	7.2	2.0	2.2	1.5	916
Oilseed rape	4.1	4.1	8.5	3.5	3.5	2.8	189
Winter barley	2.6	2.8	6.5	2.4	2.6	2.0	330
Spring barley	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.2	2.4	1.9	434
Maincrop potatoes	9.8	11.6	13.1	9.2	18.6	11.8	40
Sugar beet	4.7	4.7	14.1	8.5	8.2	5.9	64
All crops	2.2	2.2	3.1	1.7	2.6	1.3	2,970
All grass	2.3	2.6	2.5	0.9	1.5	2.1	2,383

Table AA3.2.2c Standard errors of application rates for the major crops in Scotland, 2025

Standard errors for overall application rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	6.5	6.3	3.4	4.2	6.1	4.0	88
Oilseed rape	10.2	9.7	4.0	7.5	6.9	8.1	27
Winter barley	7.2	7.4	4.4	4.2	6.2	5.4	60
Spring barley	3.4	4.0	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.1	156
Potatoes	13.6	12.0	17.4	21.9	33.4	27.5	12
All crops	4.2	4.7	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.0	468
All grass	3.7	2.9	3.1	1.2	2.1	1.0	464

Standard errors for average field rates (kg/ha)							
Crop	Total N	Straight N	Compound N	Total P ₂ O ₅	Total K ₂ O	Total SO ₃	Fields in sample
Winter wheat	6.0	5.9	5.1	2.8	5.4	3.5	88
Oilseed rape	10.2	9.7	4.2	7.5	5.7	7.3	27
Winter barley	5.7	6.5	6.2	3.3	5.6	5.4	60
Spring barley	3.0	3.6	2.6	2.1	2.9	2.6	156
Potatoes	13.6	12.1	16.7	20.4	28.7	50.9	12
All crops	3.9	4.6	2.3	2.1	3.0	2.4	468
All grass	3.7	5.7	4.2	1.9	3.2	2.5	464

The standard errors quoted in Tables AA3.2.2 a-c are a measure of the standard deviation of the mean and are used to judge the accuracy of the results for each cell in the table. This is the standard statistical process where the standard deviation of each cell is calculated first and then divided by the square root of the number of data points within that cell. Approximate 95% confidence limits will be the quoted value +/-2 standard errors.

APP 3.2.2 DATA COLLECTION

Data collection was done between June 2025 and November 2025. In addition to collecting information on the fertiliser use on each field, the recorder collected general information on the holding and the use of lime and organic manures and slurries.

Estimated quantities of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertiliser consumed annually in the UK since 2000 are shown in Table AA1.7. These data are based on BSFP findings, HMRC import/export statistics and confidential trade and sales data which are contributed by Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) industry members who represent approximately 90% of the market. They are compiled by the AIC in conjunction with Defra. Further information is provided in Section APP 3.2.5.

APP 3.2.3 DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE

Experienced and knowledgeable field staff are used to collect the required information. They make use of information from a variety of different records kept by farmers. Farm diaries are the most common method used on farm. Further information is provided in Section C. At data entry, any omitted responses, figures outside pre-agreed limits or other discrepancies are flagged for checking and followed up, often by contacting the survey respondent. Total crop areas reported

under this Survey are checked against information held in the June Agricultural Survey. Additionally, 10% of interviews undertaken will be subject to a call back by an independent reviewer to check responses to individual questions as part of data quality assurance arrangements. The aggregated figures are checked for consistency and trend analysis against historic data and are subject to independent expert peer review.

APP 3.2.4 ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION

The use of sampling in this Survey means that there will be certain limitations associated with the data. The sampling methodology used is described more fully in Section APP 3.2.1 but essentially uses a random stratified sampling strategy approach, with an element of a core panel, to obtain a representative sample. A response rate of 23% was achieved in 2025. Sampling errors arise because even with careful selection, the sample cannot be exactly representative of all the population. The size of the sampling error will depend on the size of the sample (the larger the sample the smaller the error) but also on the variance of the data. An indication of the extent to which the sample result deviates from the population can be obtained from measuring the standard error associated with the data.

The standard errors are relatively small for the grouped 'all crops and 'all crops and grass', and for the main arable crops of wheat, oilseed rape and barley. The standard errors are higher for sugar beet and potatoes where sample sizes (crop area, number of respondents) are smaller.

Figures reported for some of the smaller crops, where the sample size is relatively low, need to be treated with appropriate caution. Sample size information is provided in the tables in Appendix 2 and help to provide an indication of reliability. For crops where the sample size is relatively small it is advisable to use data from several years and to assess trends over a longer period rather than just considering year on year changes.

For potatoes in particular, part of the reason for apparent fluctuations in estimates of nutrient application rates may be because fewer numbers of fields of potatoes are covered by the Survey than would be expected from a sample survey. This is because fields of potatoes on respondent's farms may be let out and grown by a third party, so it is not possible to record information in the Survey. Furthermore, fields of potatoes grown by a respondent, but not on their own farm, are not captured in the Survey.

The statistics on the pattern of fertiliser practice reported for Great Britain largely reflect practice in England and Wales due to its greater area of total crops and grassland: about 8.7 million hectares in England and Wales and about 1.9 million hectares in Scotland. The estimates of the average field rates provide a better indication than overall application rates of actual usage levels and also of any annual variation in fertiliser practice on farms. The overall application rate considers both the average field rate and the proportion of the crop area treated, giving an overview of the crop in total. The definitions of the terms used are set out in Section APP 3.2.7 of this report.

Additionally, the Survey design has been constructed to measure use of manufactured fertilisers, thus may not be wholly representative of manure use. Some of these data, especially where sample sizes are small, need to be treated with caution.

APP 3.2.5 METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATES OF TOTAL UK FERTILISER USE

Estimated quantities of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertiliser consumed annually in the UK since 1974 are shown in Table AA1.7. These data are based on BSFP findings, HMRC import data and confidential trade and sales data which are contributed by AIC industry members who represent approximately 90% of the market. They are compiled by the AIC with input and peer review by an expert group convened by the AIC and in liaison with Defra.

It would be possible to use BSFP data alone to estimate total fertiliser use by taking the average rate for each individual crop and multiplying by the June crop area estimate and summing these to give an overall usage. However, the relatively low coverage of the BSFP survey for some crops, means that the alternative approach of combining BSFP data with trade and sales data provides more robust total usage estimates than using BSFP data alone. This method also considers use on small farms (<20 ha) and use in Northern Ireland.

The AIC survey their relevant members (14 businesses) monthly to collect information on fertiliser deliveries. The BSFP fertiliser statistics published and used in the industry and agricultural sector are by fertiliser year (growing season, July to June), not by calendar year. They are available at the AIC website.

Individual returns are quality assured by trend analysis against historic data and also against the aggregate trend. Any omitted data or anomalous figures outside trend or other pre-defined limits are checked and followed up, usually by contacting the survey respondent.

The AIC also purchase monthly HMRC trade statistics on imports and exports of fertilisers; these data are actively used and scrutinised, and where appropriate challenged by the trade. Twice a year, in December and June, and on an annual basis, aggregated figures for total fertiliser deliveries for the main types of fertiliser are calculated, together with nutrient contents. These are assessed with the import and export figures to derive the base total fertiliser usage figures. The N:P:K ratio from the BSFP Survey is compared with the AIC derived figures to confirm the nutrient quantities relative to each other. Further small adjustments may be made based on other confidential information on stocks or non-fertiliser use of imported urea.

These AIC usage figures are compared to usage figures derived from BSFP and June Agricultural Survey crop area figures and the relationship between the ratios of N, P and K from both sets of data are checked and compared. Any inconsistencies or anomalies identified in the data are identified and followed up and any necessary corrections are made to ensure comparability and consistency across all data.

Each year the AIC figures are reviewed, and quality assured for credibility and consistency across sources by a group of experts contributing knowledge on production, use and trade. The final agreed aggregated total UK usage figures are subject to independent peer review and checked for consistency and trend analysis, considering known agronomic and market factors.

The total fertiliser use is then split by country. The figures for Northern Ireland are taken from their fertiliser survey and the remaining GB figures are split between England plus Wales and Scotland by applying the proportions derived from the BSFP data. The NI Survey provides data by quarter, amalgamated by calendar year.

APP 3.2.6 REVISIONS

The figures presented in this report are finalised. Numbers of fertiliser applications in 2022 and 2023 have been corrected in Table A1.4. The total crops and grass (ha) in Table AA3.2.1 included rough grazing area in the 2024 report. This has been removed in the 2025 report.

We will provide information on any further revisions we make to the report or the datasets if any inaccuracies or errors occur.

APP 3.2.7 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

1. For the purpose of the Survey, the term **Great Britain** (or **Britain**) is defined to cover England (including the Isle of Wight), Wales (including Anglesey) and mainland Scotland.
2. The **survey year** (which is the same as the **crop year**) ran from autumn 2024 to autumn 2025, corresponding to the 2025 crop year and 2025 harvest. The recording period for fertiliser applications made during this growing season varied for different crop and grass groups.
3. For the purposes of this Survey, a **field** is defined as any single area of land measuring more than 0.2 ha (half an acre) which had a uniform cropping and fertiliser history from autumn 2024. For data collection and processing purposes, separate fields with identical cropping and fertiliser management on the same farm are blocked together as one 'field', to represent the total combined area of those fields. Areas within the same natural boundary receiving different treatments (crops and fertilisers) were recorded separately. Fallow land has always been collected by the Survey, but is not included in the calculations of this report.
4. In the report, **Crops** are defined as all crops except grass, glasshouse crops and uncropped land. **Grass** refers to all forms of grassland which may be grazed, conserved, or grown for seed production; rough grazing is excluded.
5. The abbreviation **N** is used for nitrogen, **P₂O₅** for phosphate, **K₂O** for potash, **SO₃** for sulphur, and **FYM** (Farm Yard Manure) for all types of organic manure e.g., slurries and solid manures. The phrase **total use** includes both straight (single nutrient) and compound (multi nutrient) products. Fertiliser products containing nitrogen and sulphur only are classified with straight nitrogen. Rates are expressed in terms of the equivalent nutrient content, taking into account the nutrient content in the product used. The nutrient content of the common fertiliser products including the dry matter content and nutrient content of various organic manures used are given in the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) which is available at:
<https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209>.
6. The **average field rate** is a measure of the fertiliser nutrient application rate over the sown area of fields that received some dressing of that nutrient. Average field rate is measured in kilograms of nutrient per hectare (kg/ha).
7. **Dressing cover** is the proportion of the sown area that has received any application of the nutrient or a manure and is expressed as a percentage (%).
8. The **overall application rate** is a measure of the fertiliser nutrient application rate over the sown area of all fields, irrespective of whether they received dressing of that nutrient or not. Overall application rate is measured in kilograms of nutrient per hectare (kg/ha). The overall application rate is calculated by multiplying the average field rate by the percent dressing cover. The overall application rate is always less than or equal to the average field rate due to the inclusion of any area that has not received an application of the nutrient in the calculation of the overall application rate.
9. **Sown area** is the area of a field that has been planted with a crop or grass. It excludes headlands, field margins, buffer strips and other agri-environment features.

10. The UK farm type system, aggregates a wide range of defined farm types into ten 'Robust' types:
- (1) Cereals
 - (2) General Cropping
 - (3) Horticulture
 - (4) Specialist Pigs
 - (5) Specialist Poultry
 - (6) Dairy
 - (7) Cattle and Sheep (LFA)
 - (8) Cattle and Sheep (lowland)
 - (9) Mixed
 - (10) Other

Individual farms are allocated a particular farm type according to the SGMs (Standard Gross Margins) applied to the farm's activity as recorded by the June Agricultural Survey. SGMs are a set of coefficients which estimate a £ value for one hectare of each crop or one head of livestock.

Prior to 2004, the UK agricultural departments amalgamated the Robust types 'Specialist Pigs' and 'Specialist Poultry' as the single Robust type 'Pigs and Poultry'. 2006 was the first year that the BSFP adopted the revised classification following analysis that showed this would not lead to under-representation of either of these farm types through marginalisation. The composition of 'Robust' types is presented in greater detail in Appendix 5. The sampling framework outlined in Section AA3.2.1 can be related to Robust types as set out below. Revisions to the definitions of farm types can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance>

Data presented in Appendix 2 tables GB4.1 to GB4.5 are derived from the Robust types shown below.

Table number	Robust type in table title	Robust type name	Robust number
GB4.1	cereal farms	Cereals	1
GB4.2	general cropping	General cropping and horticulture	2, 3
GB4.3	dairy farms	Dairy	6
GB4.4	other livestock	LFA and lowland grazing livestock	7, 8
GB4.5	mixed farms	Mixed	9

These Robust type groupings are also used in tables B2.3b, B3.2 and C2.1. Due to the small number of specialist pigs and poultry farms interviewed in the Survey, data collected from these Robust types have not been presented in any of the tables listed above.

11. Regional analysis of the Survey data for England was classified in two ways in 2024. Appendix 2, Table EW4.1a is based on the **Government Office Regions (GORs)** in common with other Defra surveys. Appendix 2, Table EW4.1b is based on the former MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) administrative regions, which were

revised in 1996 to take account of changes to county boundaries and nomenclature resulting from the introduction of Unitary Local Authorities between April 1995 and April 1998. These revised regions, termed **BSFP regions**, have been the basis for regional analysis within the Survey historically and are detailed in Appendix 4. Tables GB5.1 and EW4.1c are based on the **River Basin Districts** in Great Britain, as defined by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. These River Basin Districts are depicted in Appendix 6.

12. The following shorthand has been used in many of the data tables in this report, in accordance with best practice from the Office of National Statistics:
- The shorthand [c] is used where a data point, if displayed, might disclose confidential information. Data based on responses from fewer than five fields have been **suppressed**.
 - The shorthand [x] is used where data are **not available**. In most cases this is where some data displayed in a table were not collected in every year of the survey.
 - The shorthand [z] is used where data are **not applicable**.
 - The shorthand [p] is used where data are **provisional**.

APP 3.2.8 TYPES OF FERTILISER

Of the 16 essential plant nutrients, the four key ones required in relatively large amounts for crops to achieve their optimal yield potential are nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulphur. Where nutrients are not available in sufficient quantity in the soil, fertiliser products are applied to supply the nutrient needs of the plant. Plant roots take up the nutrients dissolved in the water in the soil. The nutrients must be in the correct chemical form so that they are in a suitable water-soluble form for plants to be able to use them.

There are two broad types of fertiliser. Manufactured fertilisers tend to be relatively concentrated and supply essential nutrients in a mineral form which usually are immediately available for plant use. The other type is organic fertilisers which can be plant- or animal-based, such as manure, slurry, compost, or poultry litter. Organic fertilisers are in their natural form or have undergone minimal processing. They are usually less concentrated than manufactured fertilisers, and often the nutrients they contain may need further breaking down in the soil by bacteria and other soil organisms before they are in a form available to plants. The chemical composition can vary greatly, and they tend to be slower acting and less predictable in their action.

Nitrogen is important for building DNA and proteins in plants. It encourages growth of stems and leaves by promoting protein and chlorophyll. Provided there are adequate supplies of water and other nutrients, nitrogen usually has a large effect on crop growth, yield and quality. Whatever the source, to be usable in the soil by plants, it must be in the form of inorganic ammonium or nitrate ions. The main forms of inorganic nitrogen fertilisers are ammonium nitrate, urea, ammonium phosphates, and ammonium sulphate.

Phosphorus is essential for photosynthesis and respiration. It promotes early root formation and growth and enhances seed and fruit production. It is also important for energy production and storage. In the context of fertilisers, it is measured and defined as P_2O_5 . Phosphate fertilisers include ammonium phosphate and superphosphate. The majority of phosphorus in most soil is in essentially insoluble forms, and unavailable to plants. Phosphorus is very immobile in soil, and the forms that are created and their availability, are dependent on factors such as the soil pH, temperature, and moisture. Plant roots take up

nearly all phosphorus as either the primary or secondary orthophosphate anion (H_2PO_4^- or HPO_4^{2-} , respectively). Generally, the maximum availability of phosphorus occurs in soils within a pH range of 6.0-7.0.

Potassium contributes to many plant functions apart from managing the water status, including shoot and root tip growth, cell extension, photosynthesis and the reduction of drought and disease stress. It is used in the process of building and transporting starches, sugars, and proteins, so is important for grain and fruit yield. Potassium chloride (commonly called muriate of potash) is the most common form of potassium fertiliser used in agriculture. Other forms include potassium sulphate, potassium magnesium sulphate and potassium nitrate. In the context of fertilisers, it is measured and defined in this Report as K_2O . It is usually taken up from the soil in greater quantities than the other main fertilisers. Crops which are harvested green such as grass and green vegetables will remove relatively large quantities of potassium from the soil.

Sulphur is an essential plant nutrient. It is a component of most proteins and it activates certain enzyme systems. In the past sulphur demand was satisfied through atmospheric deposition. With the significant decline of sulphur from the atmosphere, there is a need for sulphur application to crops and grass and it is often applied together with nitrogen fertilisers. Crops such as oilseed rape are particularly sensitive to sulphur deficiency and consequently require a relatively high input of sulphur. It is measured and defined in this Report as SO_3 .

More details are provided in the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209), published by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) at <https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209>.

APP 3.3 GENERAL TRENDS AND ISSUES

APP 3.3.1 CROP AREAS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Annual changes in relative cropping areas, as well as any changes in fertiliser practice for individual crops, may affect nutrient application rates when aggregated across the main crop groupings. Table AA3.3.1 provides a summary of June Agricultural Survey estimates for areas of individual major crops, crop groupings and total crops and grassland categories in 2024 and 2025 and illustrates percentage changes in relative cropping areas over the past five years. In Great Britain in 2025, 10.7 million hectares were used for either crops or grassland (excluding rough grazing). Of this, 39% (4.2 million hectares) was crops, with the remaining 61% (6.5 million hectares) being grassland.

The crop areas in Table AA3.3.1 refer to the only the sown area of fields, as do the results of the BSFP. Field margins, buffer strips and other agri-environment features are included in 'Uncropped arable land' in Table AA3.3.1.

Table AA3.3.1 Cropping and grassland areas ('000 ha) in Great Britain, 2024 – 2025

	June 2024 '000s ha	June 2025 '000s ha	% change since 2024	% change since 2020	2025 crop areas as % of total cropping
Crops					
Wheat	1,523	1,661	9.1	20.0	39.7
Barley – winter	377	355	-5.8	28.1	8.5
– spring	796	705	-11.4	-33.7	16.8
Total cereals¹	2,936	2,982	1.6	-0.9	71.2
Oilseed rape – total	292	241	-17.5	-36.6	5.8
Sugar beet	103	93	-9.7	-16.2	2.2
Potatoes ²	115	124	7.8	-10.1	3.0
Peas/beans ³	223	201	-9.9	-13.7	4.8
Maize/other fodder	351	342	-2.6	3.6	8.2
Vegetables	96	102	6.3	-12.8	2.4
Total crops⁴	4,187	4,148	-0.9	-3.8	100
Uncropped arable land ⁵	616	576	-6.5	[z]	
Grassland					
Less than 5 years old	1,133	1,173	3.5	12.8	18.1
5 years and older	5,183	5,309	2.4	-2.5	81.9
Total grass⁶	6,317	6,482	2.6	0	100
Total crops and grass⁷	10,504	10,630	1.2	-1.8	

¹ Including minor cereals (oats, rye, triticale, mixed corn).

² Early + maincrop potatoes.

³ Harvested dry for animal consumption and, for dried peas, human consumption.

⁴ Including other crops, but not fruit, protected cropping, ornamentals or uncropped arable land.

⁵ All arable land not in production, including bare fallow and arable land used for environmental benefit but not in production.

⁶ Managed grassland, excluding rough grazing.

⁷ Total cropping + total grassland.

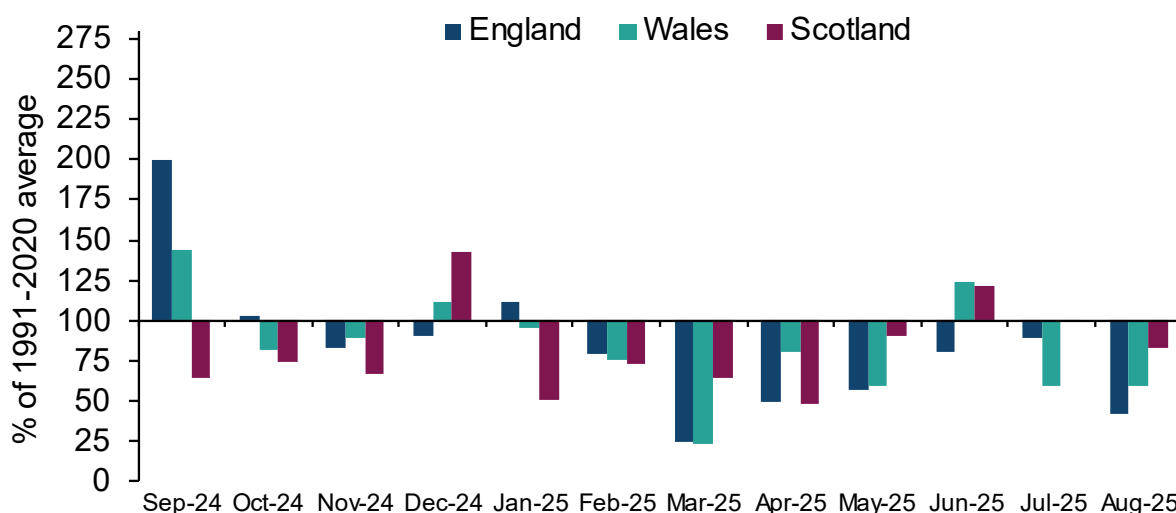
Source: Annual Defra/Scottish Government/Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) June Agricultural Survey data

Comparing the 2024 and 2025 crop years, the area sown to cereals remains largely consistent. There was an 9% increase in the wheat area and a 11% decrease in the spring barley area. The oilseed rape area decreased to the lowest level for over 30 years with continued difficulty in managing pests in this crop. While the potato area increased by 8%, sugar beet area was back by 10%, to 2022 levels. Bare fallow area decreased sharply, by 58%, largely due to more favourable winter drilling conditions for other arable crops for the 2025 season.

Unusual seasonal weather conditions can influence fertiliser usage in some years. For example:

- A very wet (or very dry) autumn might delay the establishment of winter sown crops or alter the ratio of winter to spring sown crops, with their different fertiliser requirements.
- Prolonged wet weather can increase leached losses of some nutrients, particularly nitrogen and sulphur. Weather conditions also affect other aspects of soil chemistry and nutrient availability.
- Adverse weather conditions can disrupt planned activities, such as fertiliser spreading.
- Growing conditions determine plant growth and can therefore affect nutrient requirements.

Figure AA3.3.1 Monthly rainfall as a percentage of the long-term average¹¹



Autumn 2024 temperatures were close to average. Overall, the weather was unsettled as low pressure systems brought rain and wind across the country. The first named storm of the 2024/25 season arrived bringing heavy rain and wind across the North West. November saw close to average temperatures, beginning dry, dull and mild, but with wintry conditions mid-month. There were heavy snow accumulations across the South West before a return to wet and windy conditions at the end of the month.

The winter was milder than average overall, as low pressure brought rain, wind and wintry showers across the country. Storm Darragh brought heavy rain and severe gales and following the storm high pressure brought calmer and colder conditions particularly in Scotland. January started colder than average with widespread frosts and freezing fog. The first two weeks of February saw mainly settled conditions, but the second half of the month was dominated by low pressure. There was heavy rain in much of the country and some flooding.

¹¹ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-temperature-rainfall-and-sunshine-anomaly-graphs>

Spring 2025 was mainly dry and settled with high pressure dominating. It was the warmest spring on record for all countries of the UK. March and April were dominated by high pressure with settled warm conditions. May continued warm, sunny and dry.

Summer 2025 was the warmest UK summer of record. It was dominated by high pressure, lengthy warm spells and a number of heatwaves. Atlantic weather systems in early June brought cooler temperatures and heavy rain for some. Temperatures rose later in the month, with late June being warmer and sunnier overall. Heatwave thresholds were reached in England and Wales breaking with thunderstorms and showers. July was warm with close to average rainfall. August saw a wide variety of weather conditions with cooler temperatures for the first 10 days with warmer drier conditions later in the month. Rainfall overall was below average with August seeing just 62% of average rainfall for August.

APPENDIX 4

APP 4.1 ENGLISH COUNTIES WITHIN BSFP AND DEFRA REGIONS

List of English counties indicating the BSFP and Government Office Regions (GOR) within which they fall.

	County	BSFP REGION	GOR
1	Bedfordshire	Anglia	Eastern
2	Berkshire	South-East	South East
3	Buckinghamshire	South-East	South East
4	Cleveland	North-East	North East
5	Cambridgeshire	Anglia	Eastern
6	Cheshire	North Mercia	North West
7	Cornwall	South-West	South West
8	Cumbria	Northern	North West
9	Derbyshire	East Midlands	East Midlands
10	Devon	South-West	South West
11	Dorset	Wessex	South West
12	Durham	North-East	North East
13	Essex	Anglia	Eastern
14	Gloucestershire	South Mercia	South West
15	Hampshire	South-East	South East
16	Isle of Wight	South-East	South East
17	Hereford & Worcester	South Mercia	West Midlands
18	Hertfordshire	Anglia	Eastern
20	Kent	South-East	South East
21	Lancashire	Northern	North West
22	Leicestershire	East Midlands	East Midlands
24	Lincolnshire	Eastern	East Midlands
25	Merseyside	North Mercia	North West
26/27	Greater London(E)	South-East	London
28	Norfolk	Anglia	Eastern
29	Northamptonshire	East Midlands	East Midlands
30	Tyne and Wear	Northern	North East
31	Northumberland	Northern	North East
32	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	East Midlands
33	Oxfordshire	South-East	South East
34	N Somerset and S Gloucestershire	Wessex	South West
35	Shropshire	North Mercia	West Midlands
36	Somerset	Wessex	South West
37	Staffordshire	North Mercia	West Midlands
38	Suffolk	Anglia	Eastern
39	Isles of Scilly		
40	Surrey	South-East	South East
41	East Sussex	South-East	South East
42	West Sussex	South-East	South East
43	Warwickshire	South Mercia	West Midlands
44	Greater Manchester	North Mercia	North West
45	Wiltshire	Wessex	South West
46	West Midlands	South Mercia	West Midlands
47	South Yorkshire	North-East	Yorkshire and the Humber
48	North Yorkshire (Northallerton)	North-East	Yorkshire and the Humber
49	West Yorkshire	North-East	Yorkshire and the Humber
50	North Yorkshire (Beverley)	North-East	Yorkshire and the Humber
51	East Riding of Yorks. and North Lincs	North-East	Yorkshire and the Humber

APPENDIX 5

APP 5.1 UK FARM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

UK farm classification system (Revised 2004): composition of Robust, main and other types by constituent EC type.

Robust types		Main types	Constituent EC types ¹
1	Cereals	1 Cereals	[1312]
2	General Cropping	2 General Cropping	[1412], 142, 143, [1443], 602, 603, 604, [6052]
3	Horticulture	3 Specialist fruit	3211
		4 Specialist glass	2012, 2022, 2032
		5 Specialist Hardy Nursery Stock	[3401]
		6 Other horticulture	2011, 2013, 2021, 2023, 2031, 2033, 2034, 311, 312, 313, 314, [3402], 601, 6061, 6062
4	Specialist Pigs	7 Specialist pigs	5011, 5012, 5013
5	Specialist Poultry	8 Specialist poultry	5021, 5022, 5023
6	Dairy	9 Dairy (LFA)	411, 412 (LFA)
		10 Dairy (lowland)	411, 412 (non-LFA)
7	LFA Grazing Livestock	11 Specialist sheep (SDA)	441 (SDA)
		12 Specialist beef (SDA)	421, 422 (SDA)
		13 Mixed Grazing Livestock (SDA)	431, 432, 442, 443, [4443], [4444] (SDA)
		14 Various Grazing Livestock (DA)	421, 422, 431, 432, 441, 442, 443, [4443], [4444] (DA)
8	Lowland Grazing Livestock ²	15 Various Grazing Livestock (lowland)	421, 422, 431, 432, 441, 442, 443, [4443], [4444] (non-LFA)
9	Mixed	16 Cropping and dairy	811, 812
		17 Cropping, cattle and sheep	[8132], [8142]
		18 Cropping, pigs and poultry	821
		19 Cropping and mixed livestock	822, 8232
		20 Mixed livestock	5031, 5032, 711, [7122], 721, 722, 723
10	Other ³	21 Specialist set-aside	[1311]
		22 Specialist grass and forage	[1411], [1444], [4442], [6051], [7121], [8131], [8141]
		23 Specialist horses	[4441]
		24 Non-classifiable holdings: fallow	[91]
		25 Non-classifiable holdings: other	[92]

¹ 2004 EC Typology described in Commission Decision 85/377/EEC as amended by Commission Decisions 94/376/EC, 96/393/EC and 99/725/EC with minor modifications to adapt it to United Kingdom conditions. These minor modifications are indicated by the EC farm type number being shown in square brackets. Definitions for these modified EC farm types are available from the Defra contact shown at the front of this publication. EC types 132, 133, 1441, 1442, 3212, 3213, 322, 323, 330, and 8231 have not been allocated in the classification, since these types of production do not occur in the United Kingdom at a significant level.

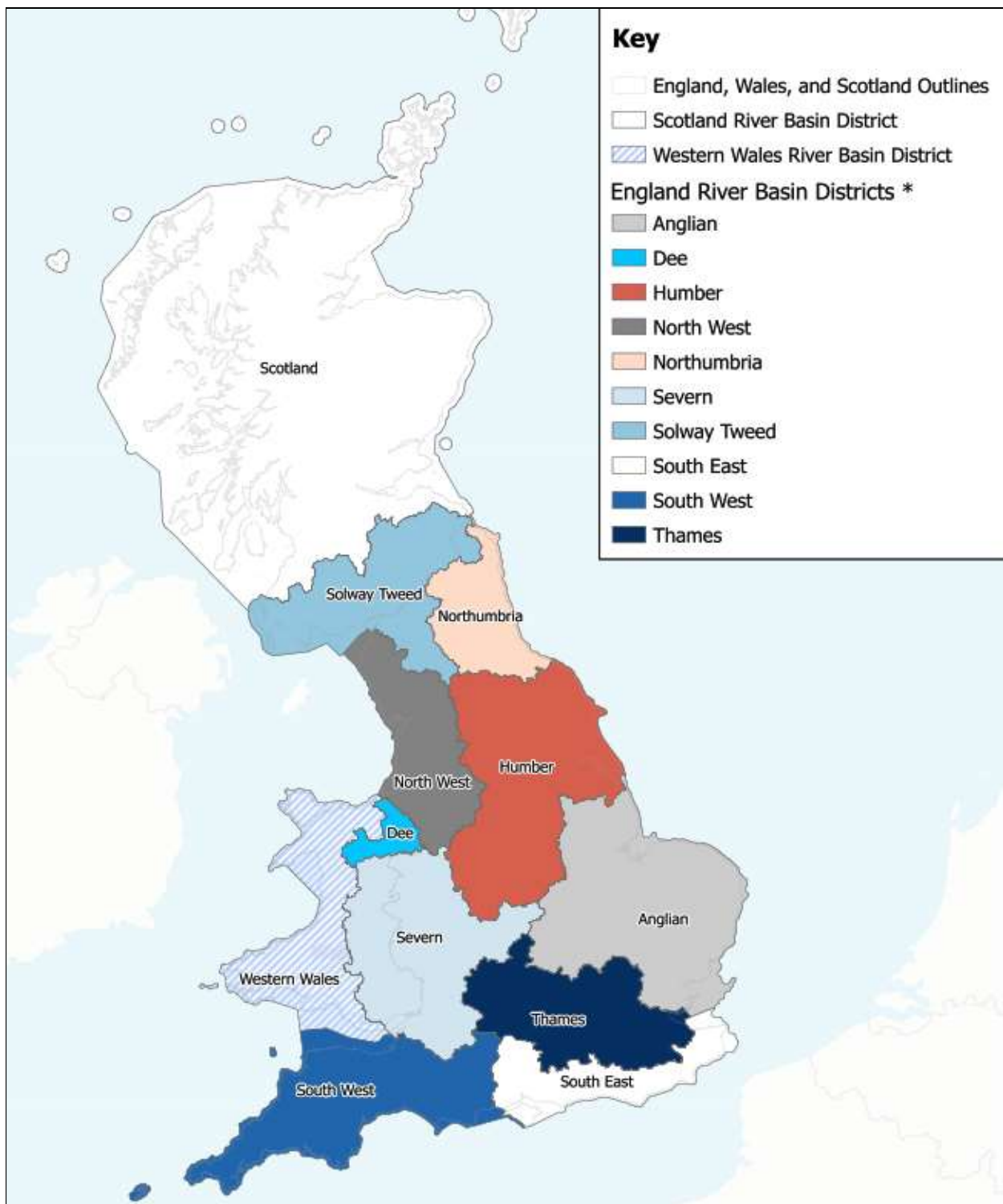
² Definitions of LFA (Less Favoured Area), lowland, SDA (Severely Disadvantaged Area), and DA (Disadvantaged Area) farms are available on request from the Defra contact shown at the front of this publication.

³ Not included in the British Survey of Fertiliser Practice.

APPENDIX 6

APP 6.1 River Basin Districts, Great Britain.

See related data in Appendix 2, Tables GB5.1 and EW4.1c.



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