

# Get It Right The First Time

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**A**rguably the most important input a rice farmer can add to a rice crop is the pre-flood nitrogen fertilizer. As long as your other nutrients are at optimal levels, the pre-flood nitrogen application is typically what sets your yield potential. Therefore, it is extremely important to keep in mind a few things that will maximize this application and help you realize the most out of your hybrid rice crop.

1) **Get the proper rate out there.**

These recommendations do not vary by hy-

occurs approximately 30 days after emergence; however, there is typically a 10 day window around this stage of growth where the pre-flood N application can be made.

3) **Get the conditions right.** It is very important that pre-flood nitrogen be applied to dry ground in order for the fertilizer to move down into the soil upon addition of the floodwater and to reduce ammonia volatilization. It is almost always better to wait for the right soil conditions rather than applying fertilizer in the water or on muddy soil. Also, if you are in a situation where it may take more than 3-5 days or longer to flood the field, the use of Agrotain™ is highly recommended to keep from losing your nitrogen to ammonia volatilization. With the unimaginable weather we've experienced this year, get-

Soil Type (texture)	AR Grand			
	South AR, MS, LA	Prairie, NE AR, SE MO	TX, East and S of Houston	TX, West of Houston
Silt soil (med)	120-0-30	120-0-30	120-0-30	90-0-30
Sandy soil (coarse)		90-0-30		90-0-30
Clay soil (fine)	120-0-30	120-0-30	120-0-30	120-0-30

\*(120-0-30) - Preflood N-Midsession N-Boot N

brid, but may be adjusted according to specific situations or cropping history on your farm.

2) **Get the timing right.** The recommended time for applying pre-flood nitrogen is typically when rice reaches the four-leaf, one-to-two tiller stage of growth. This stage of growth generally

ting the right conditions may be a one-shot deal. Yield lost due to improper pre-flood nitrogen application is not recoverable, so get it right the first time. Δ

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