

1.1 Oil Seed Rape

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium

The pH for oil seed rape should be above 6.5. The first split of N (Table 14-3) should be applied to winter oilseed rape in late February or early March at the onset of spring growth and the remainder in late March or early April. The first split should be about 30% of the total.

For spring oilseed rape some nitrogen will normally be applied to the seedbed, but no more than 50 kg N/ha should be applied to reduce the risk of poor establishment. The remainder of the nitrogen will be applied between the two true leaf stage and the early stem extension stage.

Nitrogen, P and K advice for oil seed rape is shown in Table 14-3.

Table 14-3: Available N, P and K for winter oil seed rape (kg/ha)			
Soil N, P, K Index ¹	N	P	K + Na
1	225	35	65
2	180	30	35
3	160	20	25
4	140	None	None

1. See Tables 4-2 and 4-3 for soil N Index, Table 4-4 for soil P Index, and Table 4-5 for soil K Index.

Sulphur

Oil seed rape responds to the application of S on sandy soils. A dressing of 25 kg/ha S will normally be adequate.

Magnesium

If the soil Mg is Index 1 (see Table 4-6), apply a source of Mg. Use magnesium limestone if the pH is low or 75 kg/ha of calcined magnesite or kieserite every three years.

Boron

Boron should be routinely applied to oil seed rape especially when the soil test is below 1 mg/l. Severe B deficiency causes stunting and brittle petioles, but relatively mild deficiency results in poor seed set and a reduction in seed

numbers per pod and seed weight. These conditions can also be induced by severe summer drought.

Normally B should be applied to winter oilseed rape at the onset of spring growth. In situations where there is a high risk of deficiency e.g. low soil B levels, high pH, sandy soil, an autumn application should be applied. For spring oilseed rape an application should be made soon after emergence when there is good crop cover or alternatively it may be applied as a component of a compound fertilizer before sowing.