

# How to Read a Fertilizer Label

A typical fertilizer label will be very similar to the one you see below.

**Super Excellent Grow**

**20-10-10**

**GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Total Nitrogen (N)	20%
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	10%
Soluble Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O)	10%

Excellent Fertilizer Company  
Somewhere, KY 00000

Net Weight: 40 lbs.

**Brand**  
This is the name or trademark that a company names their product

**Grade**  
This shows the amount of the primary nutrients, **Nitrogen (N)**, **Potassium (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)** (in the form of available phosphate) and **Potash K<sub>2</sub>O** (in the form of soluble potash) found in the product.  
  
A 20-10-10 means that you are guaranteed to get 20% Nitrogen, 10% Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and 10% Soluble Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) in this product.


**Guaranteed Analysis**  
This section is where the manufacturer guarantees all of the plant nutrients in the fertilizer. The Division of Regulatory Services will randomly sample fertilizers to verify this guarantee.

**The Registrant and Guarantor**  
This is the company that registers the fertilizer and makes the guarantee.

**Net Weight**  
All fertilizers, dry or liquid, show a net weight either in ounces, pounds or tons. Metric units and liquid measures can be added as additional information.

These five (5) items, generally found on the back of the packaging, are the minimum required on a fertilizer label. There will usually be additional descriptions of other nutrients in the product, recommended uses, application rates, results expected, etc., but the **BIG FIVE** as we call them, **MUST** be on each fertilizer in a legible and conspicuous form.

For more information on Kentucky's Fertilizer Regulatory Program contact Regulatory Services at 859-257-2785 or log on at [www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu) and select Fertilizer from the menu.

  
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