“How Much Fertilizer”
Color-coded Worksheet

Note: These instructions are color coded to make it easier for you to know which number to plug into the formula.

Red relates to fertilizer formulation
Aqua relates to area of lawn
Green relates to nitrogen application rate
Purple relates to total fertilizer needed

Determine how much fertilizer is needed to fertilize an area of lawn

EXAMPLE:
A local supplier sells lawn fertilizer in a 23-0-7 formulation. The measured the total area of the lawn to be fertilized is 60 feet wide by 70 long, or 4,200 ft².

There are two questions that need to be answered:
1. How much of the 23-0-7 fertilizer is needed to deliver the recommended 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, and
2. How much is needed to cover the specified area, which is 4,200 square feet?

Lawn size = 60 ft. X 70 ft. = 4,200 ft²
Fertilizer = 23-0-7
Rate (always) = 0.9 pound of actual N per 1,000 ft²

Since the formulation is 23-0-7, convert that 23% into a decimal, which is .23.

The actual formula to use is:

Formula:

\[
\text{Total fertilizer needed} = \frac{\text{N application rate \ (in lb/1000 ft²)}}{\text{N content of Fertilizer \ (as a decimal)}} \times \frac{\text{lawn size \ ft²}}{1000}
\]

This number is always 0.9
How Much Fertilizer Do I Need to Buy?

1. First, gather the following information together and fill in the blanks.

Your lawn size* = _____ ft. X _____ ft. = __________________ft²
*If your lawn isn’t a rectangle, use the formulas on the “How to Measure Your Yard” card.

Your fertilizer formulation = _______ - _______ - _______
(get this number from your bag of fertilizer)

Rate (always) = 0.9 pound of actual N per 1,000 ft²

2. Now, plug your numbers into the formula:

\[
\text{Total fertilizer needed} = \frac{\text{N application rate} \times \text{lawn size}}{\text{N content of Fertilizer (as a decimal)}}
\]

\[
\text{solve}: \quad \frac{0.9}{0.23} \times 4200 = \frac{3.9 \times 4.2}{1000} = 16.38 \text{ lbs of 23-0-7}
\]

Use the space below for your actual lawn and fertilizer formulation.