



Supreme Turf Products, Inc.

5 Cassens Court
Fenton, MO 63026

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Steve Dickinson

SPREADER CALIBRATIONS – MADE SIMPLE

Rotary spreader settings, such as Anderson's Accu Pro 2000, Scotts R8A, Spyker, Lesco, etc., are printed on some bags of fertilizer. Use these recommended spreader settings, IF provided, only as a guideline.

The first thing you must do is determine the effective width of the material to be applied. Simply spread it over a clean surface and measure it. You may want to make several passes over it to get a true picture of the effective width. Sweep it up and put it back in the bag.

Your next step is to find a comfortable walking speed. Then mark off an area containing 1,000 sq. ft. The simplest way is one pass. Use the following formula.

If your effective spreader width is **6** feet then you travel **167** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **7** feet then you travel **143** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **8** feet then you travel **125** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **9** feet then you travel **111** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **10** feet then you travel **100** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **11** feet then you travel **91** feet.
If your effective spreader width is **12** feet then you travel **83** feet.

Measure material to be applied per 1,000 sq. ft. and pour into spreader.
Example: Anderson's Goose/Crab, one 28.8 lb. bag covers 11,000 sq. ft. Simple math 28.8 divided by 11 = 2.6 lbs. per 1,000. Pour in 2.6 lbs. and spread the required distance. Adjust accordingly. It's simply trial and error. Adjust your spreader not your walking speed.

The alternative to one pass is a rectangular pattern, back and forth. We best remember square feet as length times width. On a 6 ft. width you would measure 42' long x 24' wide, a 7 foot at 36' x 28', and 8 foot at 31' x 32', a 9 foot at 37' x 27', a 10 foot at 33' x 30', a 11 foot at 30' x 33' and a 12 foot at 28' x 36'. An example follows.

NOTE: If material is too light to get accurate spread then pour in an extra 10 lbs., Spread the required distance, weigh what's left and adjust accordingly.

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DROP SPREADERS

Standard sizes are 36 inch and 42 inch.

Begin with a clean, free flowing spreader. Most important thing is to watch the flow. You can't tell how much material is in a drop spreader below the paddle. As soon as it stops flowing normally, you have reached your effective distance.

Looking to cover 1,000 sq. ft. with one pass is not very practical using a 36" width. You would have to travel 333 feet.

Mark off 55 feet and travel it six (6) times.

Pour in the required amount of material per 1,000 as called for in the directions. Spread it and adjust accordingly.

A 42 inch spreader would require one pass of 285 feet or mark off 47 feet and travel it six (6) times.

A 48 inch spreader would require one pass of 250 feet or mark off 41 feet and travel it six (6) times.

FAIRWAY SPREADERS

P.T.O driven is easier to determine effective width. Simply choose the proper P.T.O speed, pour in some material and engage spreader. This will rapidly give you a pattern and effective width. You will notice on most Vicons and Lelys that the material trails off slightly on each end. Sometimes as much as three (3) feet. Therefore a 36 foot wide spread would become an effective pattern of 30 feet.

Ground driven rotaries need to be measured on a clean surface (such as your parking lot), the same as you do the walk behind spreaders.

Depending on your terrain, find a comfortable steady operating or P.T.O speed. Most common materials today are formulated to be applied between two (2) and five (5) bags per acre. The simplest way again is one pass. We are now measuring in acres or fractions thereof. An example follows for applications of two (2) to five (5) bags per acre.

A fifty (50) lb. bag of Regalkade 21-3-12 with .3 Barricade according to directions is applied at five (5) bags per acre. One bag covering 8,700 sq. ft. or 1/5th of an acre.

Merit insecticide according to directions is applied at two (2) bags per acre. One bag covers 22,000 sq. ft. or 1/2 acre.

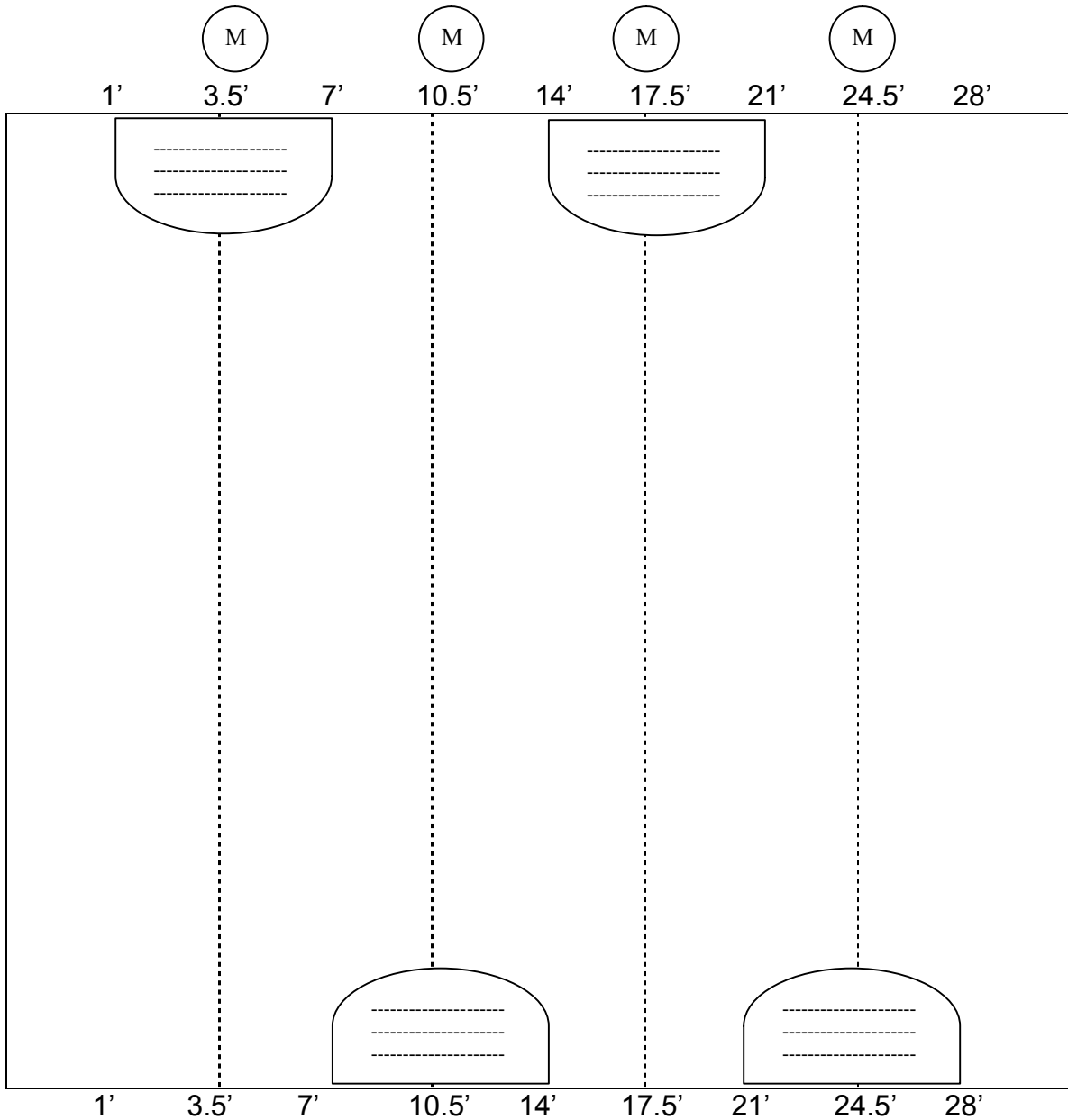


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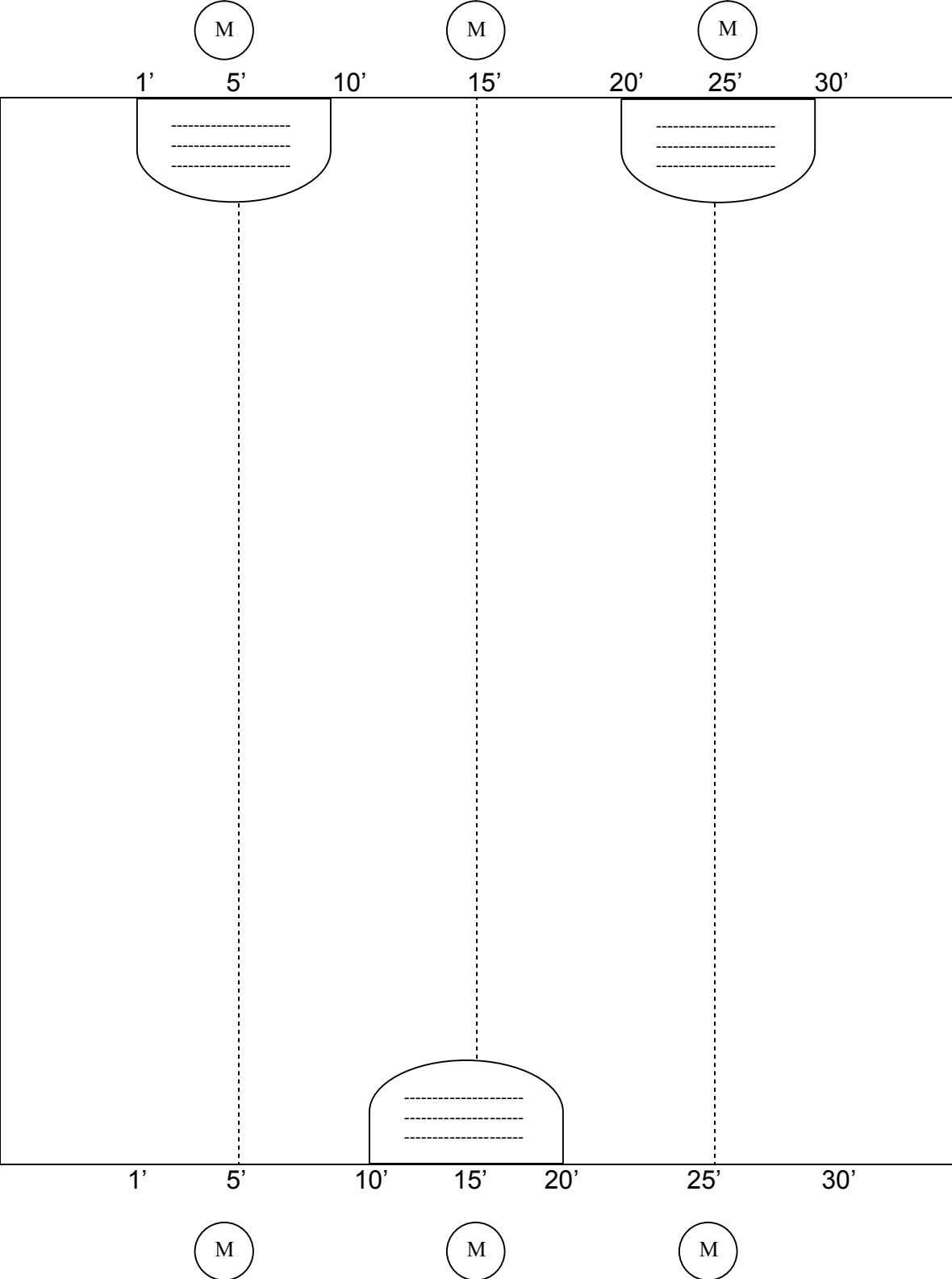
**7' SPREADER WIDTH
36' LENGTH**



 = Represents marker, irrigation flag, etc.

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**10' SPREADER WIDTH
33 1/3' LENGTH**





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Spreader Calibrations – Made Simple

E.W. = Effective width

D.T. = Distance traveled

	E.W.	X	D.T.
1/5 Acre – one pass	15'	x	193 yards
Directions call for 5 bags per	17'	x	170 yards
acre. Pour one bag in and travel	20'	x	145 yards
the appropriate distance. Adjust	22'	x	132 yards
accordingly.	25'	x	116 yards
	27'	x	107 yards
	30'	x	96 yards
1/4 Acre – one pass	15'	x	242 yards
Directions call for 4 bags per	17'	x	213 yards
acre. Pour one bag in and travel	20'	x	181 yards
the appropriate distance. Adjust	22'	x	165 yards
accordingly.	25'	x	145 yards
	27'	x	134 yards
	30'	x	121 yards
1/3 Acre – one pass	15'	x	322 yards
Directions call for 3 bags per	17'	x	284 yards
acre. Pour one bag in and travel	20'	x	242 yards
the appropriate distance. Adjust	22'	x	220 yards
accordingly.	25'	x	193 yards
	27'	x	179 yards
	30'	x	161 yards
1/2 Acre – one pass	15'	x	484 yards
Directions call for 2 bags per	17'	x	427 yards
acre. Pour one bag in and travel	20'	x	363 yards
the appropriate distance. Adjust	22'	x	330 yards
accordingly.	25'	x	290 yards
	27'	x	267 yards
	30'	x	242 yards

D.T. Distance travel is exactly correct or slightly under exact measurements accordingly.

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SPRAYERS

Before you begin to calibrate, clean or replace all filter screens and tips. Make sure suction lines and tank sumps are clean and free from any build up. Most sprayers have a standard spacing between nozzles of 10" or 20". The width of the boom; i.e. 15' or 21', has nothing to do with its calibration.

Select a safe travel speed and follow this simple formula. If your nozzle spacings are 10 inches apart, mark off an area 408 feet in length. Travel this distance at a safe and constant speed. Time yourself as to how long it takes you to drive the required distance. Do it two or three times to get as accurate as possible. Then with the sprayer standing still, run it at the same R.P.M. or P.S.I. that you used during your test run. Use a measuring jar and collect the water from one nozzle for the same amount of time that it took you to make your test run. For instance, if it took you two (2) minutes to drive the required 408 feet, then you collect water for two (2) minutes. That's measured in ounces. Ounces then simply covert to G.P.A. (gallons per acre). If you collected 60 ounces from one nozzle then you would be spraying 60 G.P.A. Whatever that figure is divided by 43.5 will give you how many G.P.T. (gallons per 1,000 sq. ft.) if you want to know. i.e., 60 divided by 43.5 = 1.38 G.P.T.

Don't change your speed to increase or decrease you output. Change your nozzles. You only have to collect water from one nozzle to calibrate. It is a good idea, however, to check the flow from all nozzles to assure maximum accuracy. If your nozzle spacings are 20 inches apart, then your distance traveled becomes 204 feet. Everything else remains the same.

<u>Row Width Or Nozzle Spacing (in)</u>	<u>Distance (ft)</u>
40	102
38	107
36	113
34	120
32	127
30	136
28	146
26	157
24	170
22	185
20	204
18	227
16	255
14	291



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