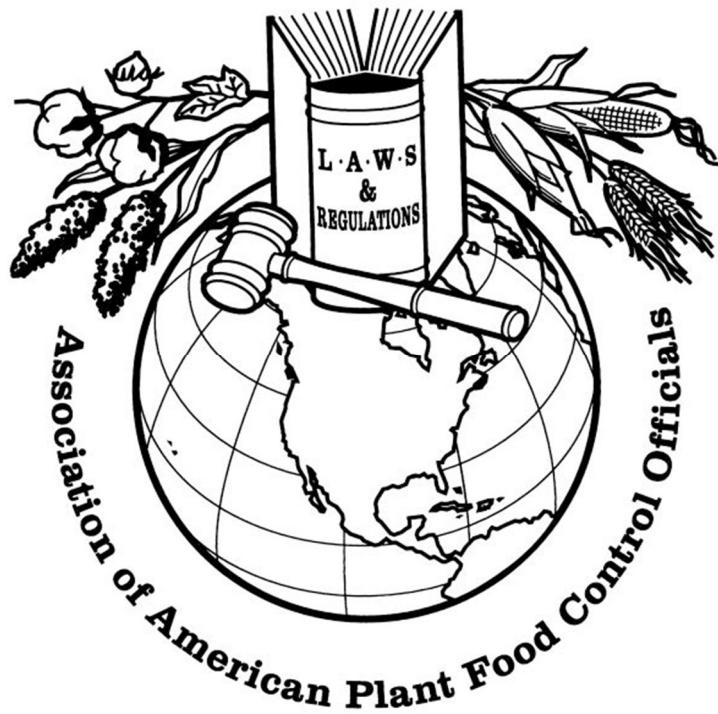


# AAPFCO

## Product Label Guide



**Association of American Plant  
Food Control Officials  
2012**

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## Introduction

AAPFCO is an organization of fertilizer control officials from each state in the United States, from Canada and from Puerto Rico who are actively engaged in the administration of fertilizer laws and regulations; and, research workers employed by these governments who are engaged in any investigation concerning mixed fertilizers, fertilizer materials, their effect, and/or their component parts.

The association works to create guidance for members and industry by developing standards through consensus. Although individual states may choose not to adopt AAPFCO guidance in full, or may adopt additional standards, the guidance in this, and other AAPFCO documents, can be considered as a minimum standard for all products and the official policy of the association.

This AAPFCO Label Guide is a summary of the label standards contained in the AAPFCO Official Publication No. 64 (2011). Although this guide describes AAPFCO label standards, the laws of each state are the final standard for labeling, licensing, and registration requirements.

Note: Other standards also apply to product labels. This document includes —

**Additional Notes** — which refer to the standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) used by many state weights and measures programs, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which oversees advertising in interstate commerce. Following these standards can make multi-state registration quicker and easier.

## Label Defined

The term *label* is all of the written, printed, or graphic matter on the immediate container, or a statement accompanying a fertilizer. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(n)]

Each product container must have a label that is clearly legible and conspicuous, and that provides the basic information, as described in the following document, for the product.

For bulk shipments, the label will be a separate document accompanying the delivery and supplied to the purchaser at the time of delivery.

The term **labeling** means all written, printed or graphic matter, upon or accompanying any fertilizer, or advertisements, brochures, posters, television and radio announcements used in promoting the sale of such fertilizer. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(o)]

# Fertilizers

## General Requirements

All fertilizers, including specialty fertilizers, must be registered before being distributed in the State. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill Section 5]

## Types of Fertilizers

**Fertilizer.** A fertilizer is a substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients, and used for its plant nutrient content. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(a)]

**Fertilizer Material.** A fertilizer that contains important quantities of only one primary nutrient (total nitrogen, available phosphate, or soluble potash), or has 85% or more of its plant nutrient content as a single chemical compound, or is derived from plant or animal residue or by-product, or a natural material deposit that has not had its nutrient content materially altered by processing. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(a)(1)]

**Mixed Fertilizer.** A mixed fertilizer is a fertilizer containing a mixture of fertilizer materials (ingredients). [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(a)(2)]

**Specialty Fertilizer.** A fertilizer distributed for non-farm use, such as a lawn fertilizer. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(a)(3)]

**Bulk Fertilizer.** Bulk fertilizers are not packaged for distribution, but instead delivered in bulk shipments. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(a)(4)]

**Synthetic Fertilizer.** Fertilizers created from another substance by a chemical reaction. (Official Terms, T-14)

**Organic Fertilizer.** A material containing carbon and one or more elements other than hydrogen and oxygen essential for plant growth. (Official Terms, T-12)

**Natural Fertilizer.** A material made from only natural organic, natural inorganic fertilizer materials, or natural fillers, singly or in combination. (Official Terms, T-36)

**Natural Organic Fertilizer.** Materials derived from either plant or animal products that contain nutrients for plant growth. It is acceptable for these materials to have been subjected to biological degradation processes under normal conditions of aging, rainfall, sun-curing, air drying, composting, rotting, enzymatic, or anaerobic/aerobic bacterial action, or any combination of these. These materials may not be mixed with synthetic materials or changed in any physical or chemical manner from their initial state except by manipulations such as drying, cooking, chopping, grinding, shredding, hydrolysis, or pelleting. (Official Terms, T-13)

**Natural Inorganic Fertilizer.** A mineral nutrient source that exists in, or is produced by, nature. The material may be altered from its original state only by physical manipulation. (Official Terms, T-35)

**Natural Base Fertilizer.** A mixed fertilizer with more than one half of the fertilizer from a natural source, and with more than one half of the sum of the guaranteed primary nutrient percentages derived from natural materials. (Official Terms, T-38)

**Organic Base Fertilizer.** A mixed fertilizer made of more than one half of the fertilizer from organic materials, and with more than one half of the sum of the guaranteed primary nutrient percentages derived from organic materials. (Official Terms, T-39)

## **Basic Label Components**

All fertilizer labels must have six basic elements, brand, grade, guaranteed analysis, directions for use, name and address of registrant, and net weight. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 6]

For bulk shipments, this information must accompany the delivery as a written or printed form and shall be supplied to the purchaser at the time of delivery. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 6(b)]

### **Brand**

The brand is a term, design or trademark used in connection with one or several grades of fertilizer. The brand must not be misleading, and any numerals used in the brand must not be misleading. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(b)] An example of an acceptable brand would be "SuperGro Supreme."

### **Grade**

The grade is the percentage of Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ) and Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ ) in the same terms, order, and percentages as in the guaranteed analysis. The grade should not include any nutrients other than Total Nitrogen, Available Phosphate, and Soluble Potash. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(d) and Statements of Uniform Interpretation and Policy (1)]

The grade statement for mixed fertilizers must be in whole numbers, such as 10-20-10. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(d)]

The grade statement for specialty fertilizers may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one percent of Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ), and Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ ). [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(d)]

The grade statement for fertilizer materials such as bone meal, manure, or ammonium

nitrate may also be guaranteed in fractional units. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(d)]

### **Guaranteed Analysis**

The Guaranteed Analysis is the manufacturer's guarantee for minimum percentage of nutrients claimed for the product. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(c)] In a Guaranteed Analysis the nutrients are listed in a specific order and format. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1)] For more information, see the section titled, "Understanding the Guaranteed Analysis."

### **Derivation Statement**

The derivation statement lists the sources for the nutrients in the guaranteed analysis. This statement is not required by the AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, but when it is provided, it must be listed below the guaranteed analysis. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (2)(e)]

### **Directions for Use**

Any fertilizer delivered to an end user shall include directions for use. The minimum directions must include either a general statement, such as "Use in accordance with the recommendations of a qualified individual or institution or according to an approved nutrient management plan," or provide detailed directions for use. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations 2(h)]

### **Name and Address of Registrant**

The name and address of the person or company responsible for the guarantees on the label must be listed on the label. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 5(a)(3)]

**Additional Notes—***The NIST packaging standards require the name of the person or company responsible for the product be conspicuously displayed on any package. (NIST Consumer Packaging Label Guide, SP 1020-1, 2005, p. 14)*

### **Net Weight**

All fertilizer labels (bag, bulk or liquid) must include a statement of net weight. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 5(a)(4)] As all guarantees for plant nutrients are made as a percentage of weight, all products must be labeled and sold by net weight.

***Additional Notes—NIST Handbook 130, Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation, 2009, Section 6(6.3) also requires all packages declare a net quantity.***

*The NIST packaging standards require the net weight statement to be bold, clear and conspicuous, in a color that contrasts with the background, and parallel to the base of the package in the lower 30% of the principal display panel. Words or phrases that qualify the amount, such as “approximately,” are not allowed. (NIST Consumer Packaging Label Guide SP 1020-1, 2005, p. 15)*

### **Guaranteed Analysis Basics**

The Guaranteed Analysis is the guarantee of the minimum percentage of nutrients claimed for the product. These claims must be made in a specific order and format, as shown in Example Label #1.

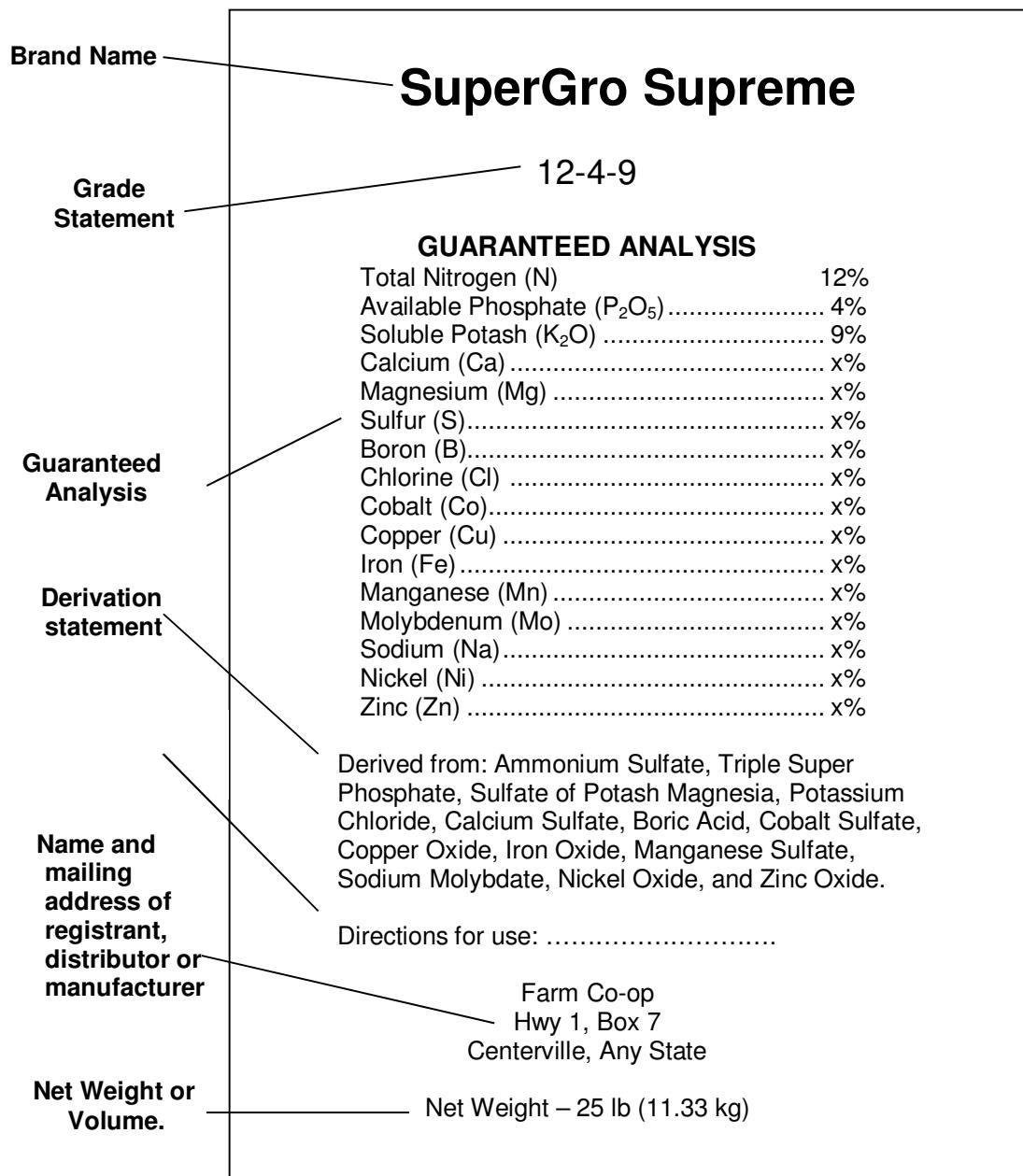
Any primary nutrients claimed must be reported as Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ), and Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ ), in that order. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(c)(1)]

The guarantees for all other nutrients must be made on an elemental basis [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1)], and in the order shown in Example Label #1. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1)]

Zero (0) guarantees should not be made and shall not appear in statement, except in nutrient guarantee breakdowns. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (2)(d)]

The term of “percentage” by symbol or word, when used on a fertilizer label shall represent only the amount of individual plant nutrients in relation to the total product by weight. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Section 4(h), Rules and Regulations (5)] For example, the statement a product “contains 50% slowly available nitrogen” would mean the product would have a grade statement of at least 50-0-0, and a 50 lb bag would contain 25 lbs. of slowly available nitrogen.

## Label 1: Basic Elements of a Fertilizer Label



## Nitrogen Guarantees

In the guaranteed analysis, nitrogen must be guaranteed as Total Nitrogen (N).

If chemical forms of nitrogen are claimed or required, then, as shown below, the forms must be shown in the Guaranteed Analysis. No particular order of forms of nitrogen is required. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (2)(d)]

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### GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Nitrogen (N) x%  
x% Ammoniacal Nitrogen  
x% Nitrate Nitrogen  
x% Urea Nitrogen  
x% Other Water Soluble Nitrogen  
x% Slowly Available Water Soluble  
    Nitrogen  
x% Water Insoluble Nitrogen

---

### Forms of Nitrogen

*Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>)* is one of only two forms of nitrogen taken up by plants. Sources include but are not limited to monoammonium phosphate (MAP), diammonium phosphate (DAP), ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, urea ammonium nitrate (UAN), ammonium polyphosphate, calcium ammonium nitrate, and ammonium thiosulfate.

*Nitrate Nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)* is one of only two forms of nitrogen taken up by plants. Sources include but are not limited to UAN, ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>), potassium nitrate (KNO<sub>3</sub>), calcium nitrate [Ca (NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] and sodium nitrate (NaNO<sub>3</sub>).

*Urea Nitrogen [CO(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]* can come from sources that include, but are not limited to, UAN, urea, urea trizone, sulfur coated urea, and polymer coated urea.

*Other Water Soluble Nitrogen* can come from sources that include, but are not limited to, methylene urea, urea trizone, methylene diurea (MDU),

dimethylenetriurea (DMTU), dicyandiamide, triazole, ureaform, and urea-formaldehyde.

*Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen* can come from sources that include, but are not limited to, methylene urea, urea trizone, methylene diurea (MDU), dimethylenetriurea (DMTU), dicyandiamide, triazole, ureaform, and urea-formaldehyde.

*Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN)* can come from sources that include, but are not limited to, ureaform, isobutylidene diurea, urea-formaldehyde, feather meal, blood meal, corn gluten meal, and other natural organic materials.

*Organic Nitrogen* can be used, when appropriate, to describe a portion of the nitrogen in the nitrogen breakdown. (Statement of Uniform Interpretation of Policy #21)

However, if an amount of nitrogen is designated as organic then the water insoluble nitrogen or the slow release nitrogen guarantee must not be less than 60% of the nitrogen so designated. Coated urea shall not be included in meeting the 60% requirement. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (9)]

## Available Phosphate Guarantees

*Available Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)* is the sum of water soluble and citric acid soluble phosphate in a product. (AAPFCO Official Fertilizer Definition P-2) This is also the amount of pentavalent phosphorus P<sup>+5</sup> present in the material. (AAPFCO Official Fertilizer Definition P-1)

Some sources of phosphate include: diammonium phosphate (DAP), monoammonium phosphate (MAP), single super phosphate, triple superphosphate, (TSP), magnesium ammonium phosphate, magnesium potassium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate, dipotassium

phosphate, rock phosphate, bone meal, and tripotassium phosphate.

### **Definitions**

*No Phosphate Fertilizer* means fertilizer products with phosphate levels below 0.5% intended for established urban turf or lawns. (Official Terms T-76)

*Low Phosphate Fertilizer* means products intended for new or established urban turf or lawns, with available phosphate levels above 0.5%  $P_2O_5$  and an application rate not to exceed 0.25 lb.  $P_2O_5/1000$  sq. ft./application and 0.5 lb  $P_2O_5/1000$  sq. ft./year. (Official Terms T-77)

### **Soluble Potash Guarantees**

*Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ )* is the portion of the potash soluble in aqueous ammonium oxalate, aqueous ammonium citrate or water. (Official Fertilizer Definitions K-2)

Some sources of soluble potash include: sulfate of potash, (red and white) muriate of potash, potassium sulfate, kelp, and sulfate of potash-magnesia.

### **Secondary and Micro Nutrient Guarantees**

All fertilizer nutrients, with the exception of phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ) and potash ( $K_2O$ ), if guaranteed, shall be stated in terms of the elements. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1) and SUIP #2]

Nutrients, other than primary nutrients, that are essential to the normal growth of plants may need to be added to the growth medium. Secondary plant nutrients include calcium, magnesium and sulfur; micro plant nutrients include boron, chlorine, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, sodium and zinc. (Official Terms T-9)

Except for those water soluble nutrients labeled for ready to use foliar fertilizers, ready to use specialty liquid fertilizers,

hydroponic or continuous liquid feed programs and guarantees for potting soils, the minimum percentages of secondary nutrients and micronutrients accepted for registration are as follows:

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Calcium (Ca)	1.0000%
Magnesium Mg)	0.5000%
Sulfur (S)	1.0000%
Boron (B)	0.0200%
Chlorine (Cl)	0.1000%
Cobalt (Co)	0.0005%
Copper (Cu)	0.0500%
Iron (Fe)	0.1000%
Manganese (Mn)	0.0500%
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.0005%
Nickel (Ni)	0.0010%
Sodium (Na)	0.1000%
Zinc (Zn)	0.0500%

---

Guarantees or claims for the above listed plant nutrients are the only ones which will be accepted. Guarantees for any of the above listed elements shall appear in the order listed, immediately following guarantees for primary nutrients. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1)]

### **Warning and Caution Statements**

Warning or caution statements may be required when some micronutrients, such as boron or molybdenum, are present in excess of a state-defined level. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (1)(a)-(e)] Example of a warning statement is included in Sample Label 2 (page 11).

### **Chlorine**

The chlorine content of mixed fertilizers in which the potash is claimed in a form other than chloride shall not exceed one-half of one percent (0.5%) more than five percent (5%) of the potash content found (Calculate as follows: 0.05 times the percentage of potash found plus 0.5). (SUIP #10)

## **Slowly Available Nutrient Guarantees**

When a fertilizer contains recognized and determinable forms of nutrients with slowly available properties, including coated materials, and a slowly available claim is made, then the guarantee should be shown as a footnote, rather than as a component in the guaranteed analysis. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (3)] (SUIP #17 and SUIP #21)

### *Guarantee for One Slowly Available Nutrient*

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#### **GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Total Nitrogen (N)	x%
x% Nitrate Nitrogen	
x% Urea Nitrogen*	

\*x% Slowly available urea nitrogen from \_\_\_\_\_ (list source material).

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Guarantee for All Materials of One Nutrient Slowly Available*

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#### **GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Total Nitrogen (N)*	x%
x% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
x% Urea Nitrogen	

\*x% Slowly available nitrogen from \_\_\_\_\_ (list source material).

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Guarantee for Two Slowly Available Materials*

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#### **GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Total Nitrogen (N)	x%
x% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
x% Nitrate Nitrogen	
x% Urea Nitrogen*	
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )**	x%

\*x% Slowly available urea nitrogen from \_\_\_\_\_ (list source material).

\*\*x% Slowly available phosphate from \_\_\_\_\_ (list source material).

### **Guarantee for Two Coated Materials**

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#### **GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

Total Nitrogen (N)*	x%
x% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
x% Nitrate Nitrogen	
x% Urea Nitrogen	
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )*	x%

\*The nitrogen and phosphate in this product have been coated to provide x% coated slow release total nitrogen (N) and x% coated slow release available phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>).

## **Other Label Requirements**

### **Specialty Fertilizers**

Specialty fertilizers are products intended for non-farm use. Any product coming under the fertilizer law shall not carry labels to emphasize that dilutions will make so many gallons of fertilizer. Specific claims, such as "contents of this package will make \_\_\_\_\_ gallons of fertilizer" should be prohibited. The labels shall not carry any extravagant and misleading advertising and claims. (Statement of Uniform Interpretation of Policy #9)

Specialty fertilizer labels must include directions for use, including recommended application rates, application timing and minimum intervals, and the statement "Apply Only as Directed," or similar statement. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill Rules and Regulations (2)(h)(1)]

### **Beneficial Substances**

Beneficial substances or compounds are any substance or compound other than primary, secondary, and micro plant nutrients that can be demonstrated by scientific research to be beneficial to one or more species of plants, when applied to the plant or soil. (Official Terms T-73)

When claimed or advertised, beneficial substances or compounds must be guaranteed on the product label. This guarantee shall appear under the heading "Contains Beneficial Substances" or "Contains Beneficial Compounds". [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations (2)(f)]

*Guarantee for Beneficial Substances*

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Contains Beneficial Substances  
Beneficial substance.....%  
(or other acceptable units)  
Purpose Statement:

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*Silicon Guarantee*

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Contains Beneficial Substances  
Available Silicon (Si).....% (or  
other acceptable units)  
Purpose Statement:

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The amount of beneficial substance or compound is generally guaranteed by the weight of the substance or compound as a percentage of the net weight of the product.

## **Labeling of Organic Input Products**

Products which are consistent with the rules of the National Organic Program (NOP) and are intended for use as organic inputs may make statements on the product label that affirm that the product is in accord with NOP rules, such as "suitable for organic farming," "acceptable for use in organic production" or "meets the National Organic Program requirements for organic production."

Organic input products that have been recognized as consistent with the rules of NOP by an NOP Accredited Certifying Agency (ACA), may use the logos issued by these agencies, such as OMRI (Organic

Materials Review Institute), state organic programs or other recognized certifying agencies or organic input listing services. Such statements are exempt from requirements pertaining to organic labeling under the fertilizer law. (Statement of Uniform Interpretation of Policy #28)

## **Labeling and Misbranding**

In essence, "labeling" is anything that is used to promote the sale or distribution of a fertilizer. Labeling can be written, printed, graphic, or verbal. It can be in the form of technical sheets, sales presentations, television or radio advertisements, websites, brochures or posters. It can be attached to the product, accompany the product, or be entirely separate from the product.

If labeling is false or misleading in any particular way, the product is considered misbranded. If the contents, ingredients, name, grade or claims on a product label do not match the registered label, the product is misbranded.

No person shall distribute a misbranded fertilizer product. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill Section 12]

**Additional Notes** — The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires that any claims made in product advertising must:

- be truthful and non-deceptive, and
- have evidence to back up any claims, prior to making the claim.

The simple rule to avoid misbranding:

***If you claim it,  
you must guarantee it.***

## **Adulteration**

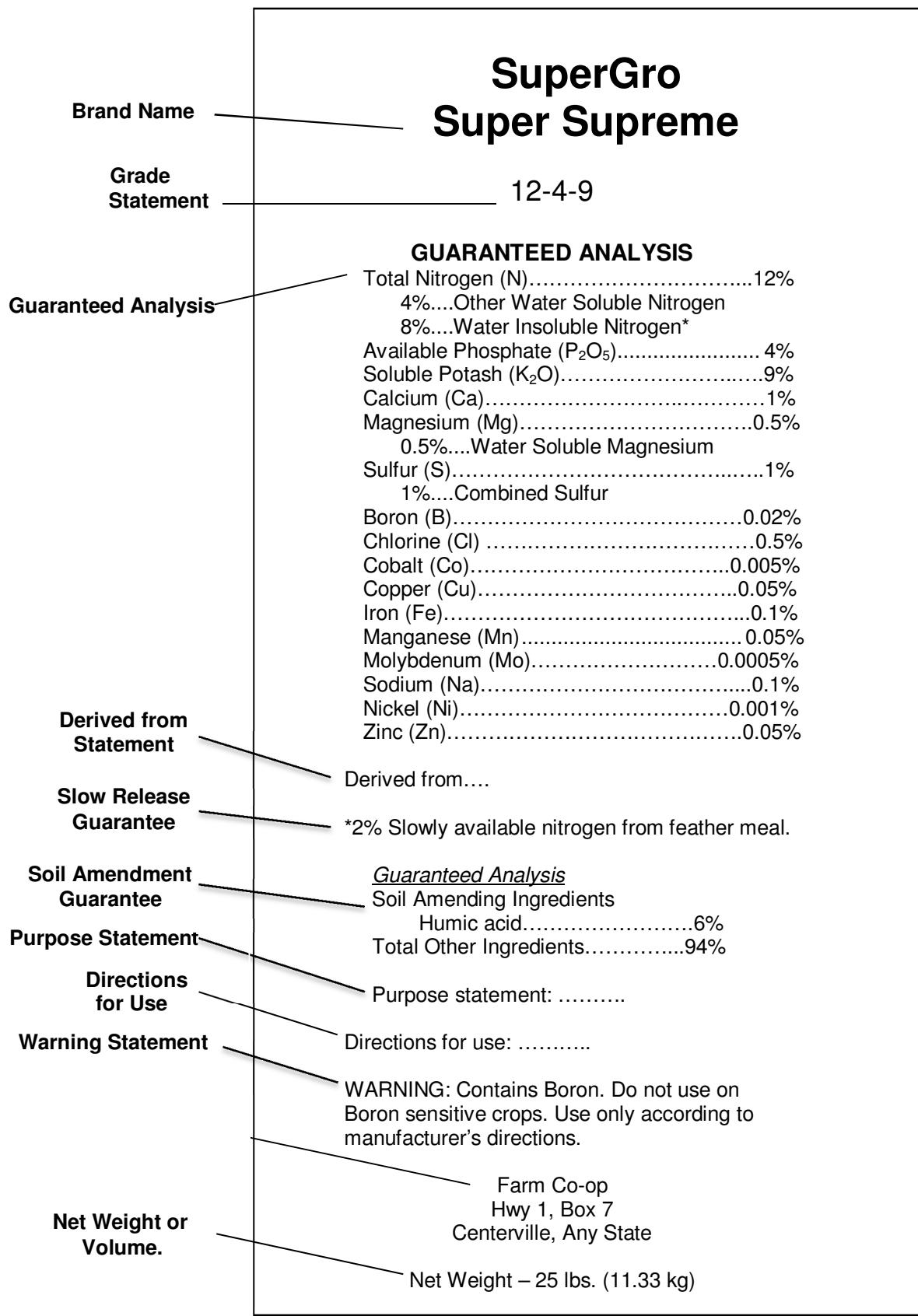
A fertilizer is adulterated if:

- it contains any harmful or deleterious substance in sufficient amounts to render it injurious to beneficial plant life, humans, aquatic life, soil or water when applied as directed;
- adequate warning statements and directions for use which are necessary for safe use are not shown on the label,
- its composition is less than purported; or
- it contains unwanted crop or weed seed [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill Section 13]

No person shall distribute an adulterated fertilizer. [Uniform State Fertilizer Bill Section 13]



## Label 2: A Fertilizer Label with Additional Claims



# Bulk Compost

Rules and Regulations for bulk (unpackaged) compost are an addition to the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill. States may choose to add the Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost to their State Fertilizer Bill. If added, these Rules and Regulations should be inserted after AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Fertilizer, Section 2(h).

Bulk compost claiming to contain nutrients must be registered as fertilizers.

Packaged composts are regulated under the Uniform Soil Amendment Bill.

Compost registered as a fertilizer is exempt from registration under the Soil Amendment Bill.

## Definitions

*Annual Production* means the quantity of compost produced by a composting facility. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(a)]

*Batch* means a specified volume or quantity of compost. The term “batch” may mean: (1) the volume of a windrow or stockpile, or (2) the compost produced within a certain period of time, determined by the testing frequency. This frequency is determined by the production volume of the facility.

- For facilities with an annual production of 1-6,250 tons of compost, testing frequency must be less than once per quarter.
- For facilities with an annual production of 6,250-17,500 tons of compost, testing frequency must be less than once per two (2) months.

- For facilities with an annual production of more than 17,500 tons of compost, testing frequency must be at least once per month.

[AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(b)]

*Bulk* compost is unpackaged compost. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(c)]

*Compost* is a biologically stable material derived from the composting process. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(d)]

*Composting* is the biological decomposition of organic matter by mixing and piling in such a way to promote aerobic and/or anaerobic decay. The process inhibits pathogens, viable weed seeds and odors. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(e)]

*Feedstock* is source material used to produce a compost. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(f)]

*Lot* means an identifiable quantity of compost that can be sampled officially up to and including a freight car load or 50 tons maximum, or that amount contained in a single vehicle, or that amount delivered under a single invoice. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(g)]

*Quantity Statement* means net weight or net volume. [AAPFCO Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(1)(h)]

## Label Requirements

When a bulk compost product is registered under the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill the product label *must* include:

- net weight
- a list of the feedstocks used to make the product,
- nutrient guarantees, and
- a list of the sources of the nutrients.

### Net Weight

The label of a bulk compost must include a statement of the weight. Quantity statements based on volume may be used only if:

- A weight conversion is provided elsewhere on the product label (e.g., 2 cubic yards = 1 ton); *or*
- A weight scale ticket accompanies delivery and is supplied to the purchaser at time of delivery. [Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i) 2.]

### List of Feedstocks

The label must contain a list of feedstock from which the compost was derived. [Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(5)]

### Nutrient Guarantees

A bulk compost registered as a fertilizer must include nutrient guarantees. These guarantees must be made on a wet ("as is") basis. However, if a compost is stored in environmental conditions that may result in variable moisture content in the compost, guarantees may be determined and guaranteed at a specific moisture level, provided that the moisture value shall be stated on the label. Provided that the lab determines the moisture level to be in excess of the stated value, the nutrient guarantees shall be adjusted accordingly.

Each batch of bulk compost may be tested for nutrient content. The test results may be considered as a guarantee:

(1.) Except that Total Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ) may be guaranteed in addition to

Available Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ) and Total Potash ( $K_2O$ ) may be guaranteed in addition to Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ );

(2.) And such test results shall accompany each batch of bulk compost.

c. Guarantees for Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ), Total Phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ), Soluble Potash ( $K_2O$ ) and Total Potash ( $K_2O$ ) may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one percent, regardless if whether the compost is sold as a specialty or agricultural fertilizer. [Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(4)]

### Sources of Nutrients

When shown on the label, the sources of nutrients shall be listed below the completed guaranteed analysis statement. The statement shall include any additional sources of nutrients that have been added to the compost. [Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(6)]

### Product Claims

Compost labels and labeling may state the product is intended solely for use of one or more of the following purposes without registration as a fertilizer:

- a. Improves soil structure and porosity – creating a better plant root environment;
- b. Increase moisture infiltration and permeability, and reduces bulk density of heavy soils – improving moisture infiltration rates and reducing erosion and runoff;
- c. Improves the moisture holding capacity of light soils – reducing water loss and nutrient leaching, and improving moisture retention;
- d. Improves the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils;
- e. Supplies organic matter;
- f. Aids the proliferation of soil microorganisms;
- g. Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media;
- h. Encourages vigorous root growth;

- i. Allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients, while reducing nutrient loss by leaching;
- j. Enables soils to retain nutrients longer;
- k. Contains humus – assisting in soil aggregation and making nutrients more available for plant uptake;
- l. Buffers soil pH. [Rules and Regulations – Bulk Compost, Section (i)(3)]

### **Label 3: Basic Elements of a Bulk Compost Label**

<b>Brand Name</b>	<b>Grower's Bulk Compost</b>
<b>Guaranteed Analysis</b>	<b>0.2-0.2-0.3</b> <b><u>Guaranteed Analysis</u></b>
<b>Source of nutrients</b>	Total Nitrogen (N).....0.2% Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ).....0.2% Total Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ).....0.6% Soluble Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O) .....0.3% Total Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O).....0.5%
<b>Feedstock statement</b>	Nutrients from composted poultry litter, wheat straw, and sulfate of potash.
<b>Product claims</b>	Compost feedstock of poultry litter and wheat straw.
<b>Name and mailing address of registrant, distributor or manufacturer.</b>	This product improves soil structure and porosity and aids the proliferation of soil microorganisms.  Farm Co-op Hwy 1, Box 7 Centerville, Any State
<b>Net Weight or Volume.</b>	Net Weight – 5 tons

# Soil and Plant Amendments

Both soil amendments and plant amendments are included in the AAPFCO Uniform Soil Amendment Bill.

## Definitions

**Soil amendment.** Any substance, or a mixture of substances, intended to improve the physical, chemical, biochemical or other characteristics of the soil, except fertilizers, agricultural liming materials, unmanipulated animal manures, unmanipulated vegetable manures, pesticides and other material exempted from regulation. [Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 3(a)] (See Sample Labels 3 and 4, pages 12 and 13)

**Plant amendment.** Any substance applied to plants or seeds which is intended to improve germination, growth, yield, product quality, reproduction, flavor or other desirable characteristics of plants, except fertilizer, soil amendments, agricultural liming materials, animal and vegetable manures, pesticides, plant regulators and other materials that may be exempted from regulation. [Follows Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 16, Note No. 4] An example would be a microbial inoculum for legumes (see Sample Label 7, page 20).

## Label Requirements

All soil amendment labels must have six basic elements:

- **Net Weight** - the weight of the material as offered for sale.
- **Brand Name** – the term, designation, trade mark, product name or other specific designation under which individual soil amendments are offered for sale.
- **Guaranteed Analysis** –  
Soil Amending Ingredients  
“name of ingredient”....\_\_%  
(identify and list all)  
Total Other Ingredients...\_\_%
- **Purpose of Product**

- **Directions for Application**
- **Name and Address of Registrant**

[Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(a)] For an example of how a soil amendment label might appear, please see Sample Label 4 (page 17).

For bulk shipments, this information must accompany the delivery as a written or printed form and shall be supplied to the purchaser at the time of delivery. [Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(a)]

No information or statement shall appear on any package, label, delivery slip, or advertising material which is false or misleading to the purchaser as to the use, value, quality, analysis, type or composition of the soil amendment. [Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(b)]

The state may require proof of claims for any soil amendment. If no claims are made the State may require proof of usefulness and value of the soil amendment. [Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(c)]

No soil amending ingredient may be listed or guaranteed on labels or labeling without the permission of the state agency responsible for the registration or licensing of soil amendments. [Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(d)]

For soil amendments, the state agency responsible for the registration or licensing of soil amendments may allow labeling by volume rather than weight. [Uniform State Soil Amendment Bill, Section 4(e)]

When active ingredients are claimed, all ingredients not listed by identity and amount are considered as other ingredients, as shown in Sample Label 4 (page 17).

When an ingredient statement is used it means a collective and continuous listing of the ingredients of which the soil amendment is composed. Such ingredients shall be listed in descending order by their predominance by volume or weight as appropriate in non-quantitative terms. [Rules and Regulations – Soil Amendments 1(c)] Sample Label 5 (page 18)

Each separately identified product shall be registered before being distributed in the State. [Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 5]

### **Labeling and Misbranding**

Labeling is anything that is used to promote the sale or distribution of a fertilizer. Labeling can be written, printed, graphic or verbal. It can be in the form of technical sheets, sales presentations, television or radio advertisements, websites, brochures or posters. It can be attached to the product, accompany the product, or be entirely separate from the product.

If labeling is false or misleading in any particular way, the product is considered as misbranded. If the contents, ingredients, name, grade or claims on a product label do not match the registered label, the product is misbranded. [Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 9]. No person shall distribute a misbranded soil amendment. [Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 9]

**Additional Notes**—The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires that any claims made in product advertising must:

- be truthful and non-deceptive, and
- have evidence to back up any claims, prior to making the claim.

The simple rule to avoid misbranding:

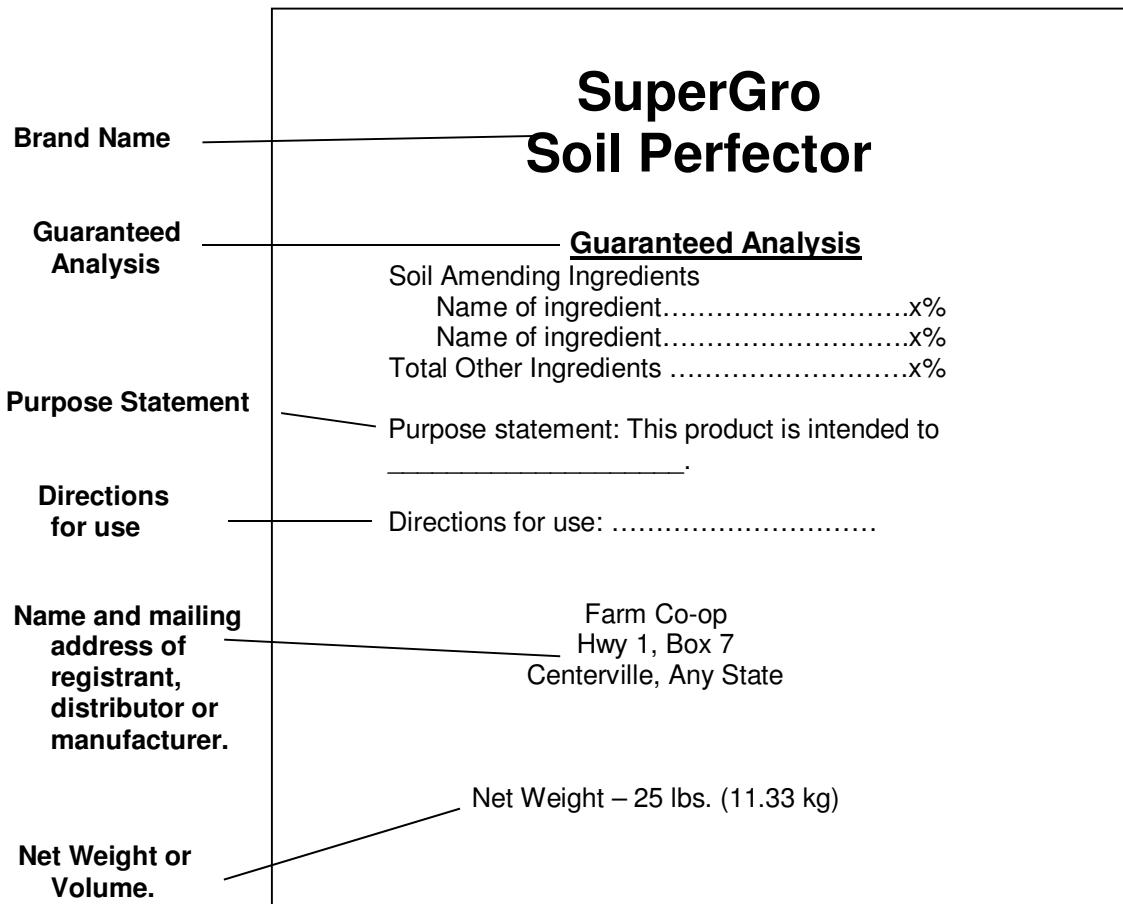
*If you claim it,  
you must guarantee it.*

### **Adulteration**

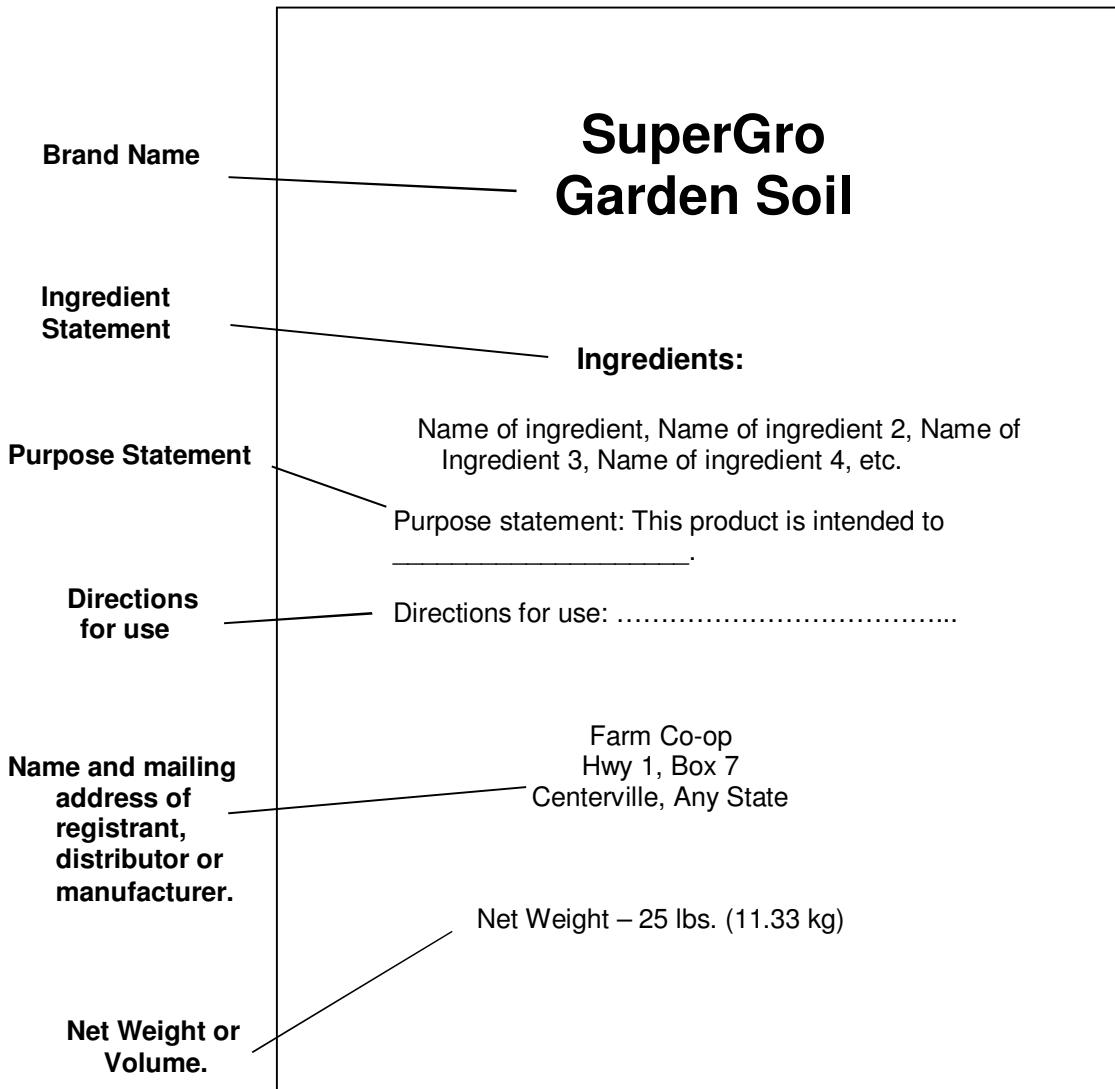
A soil amendment is adulterated if:

- it contains any harmful or deleterious substance in sufficient amounts to render it injurious to beneficial plant life, humans, aquatic life, soil or water when applied as directed;
- adequate warning statements and directions for use which are necessary for safe use are not shown on the label,
- its composition is less than purported; or
- it contains unwanted crop or weed seed. [Uniform Soil Amendment Bill Section 13]

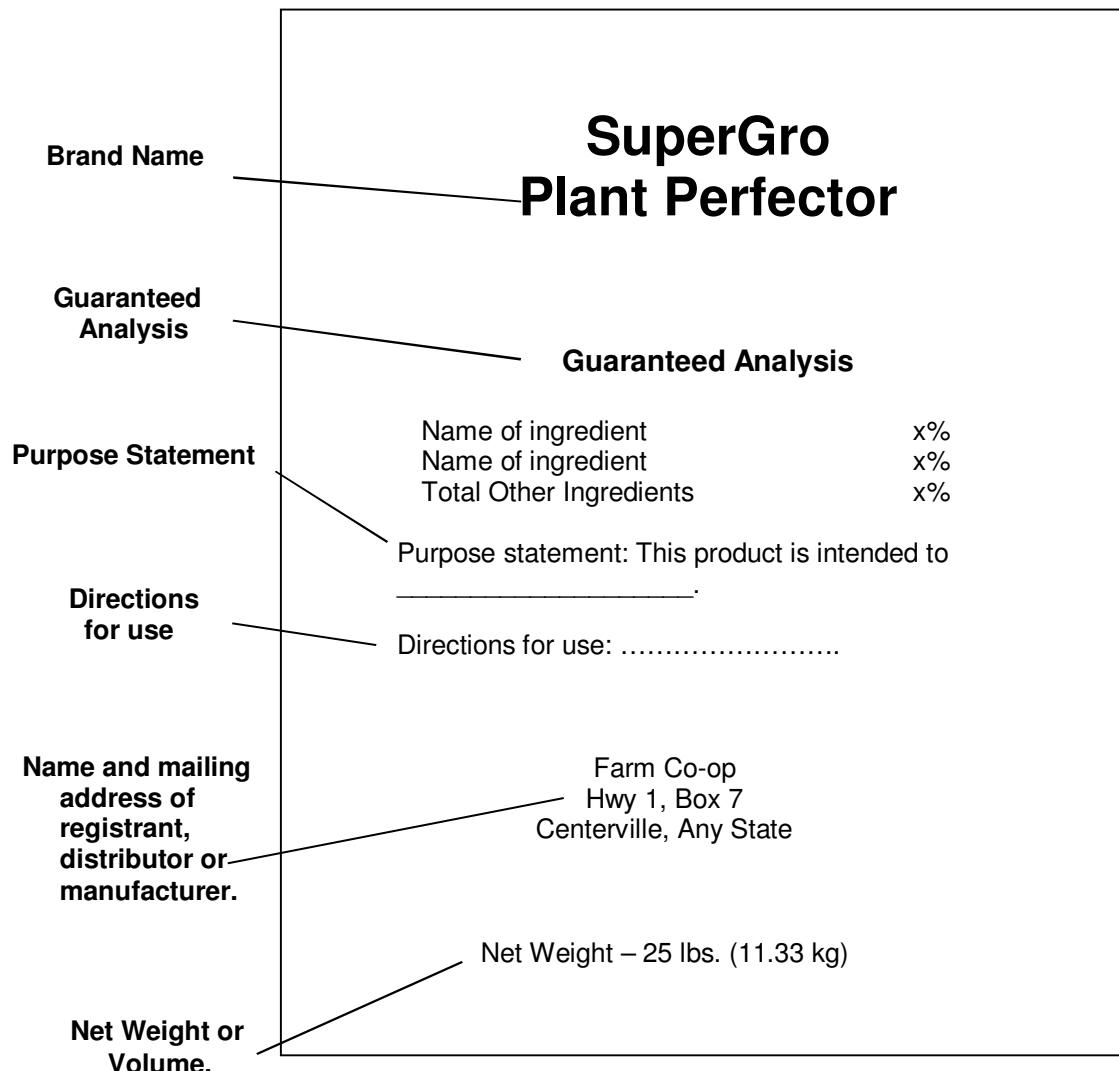
#### Label 4: Basic Elements of a Soil Amendment Label, Option 1



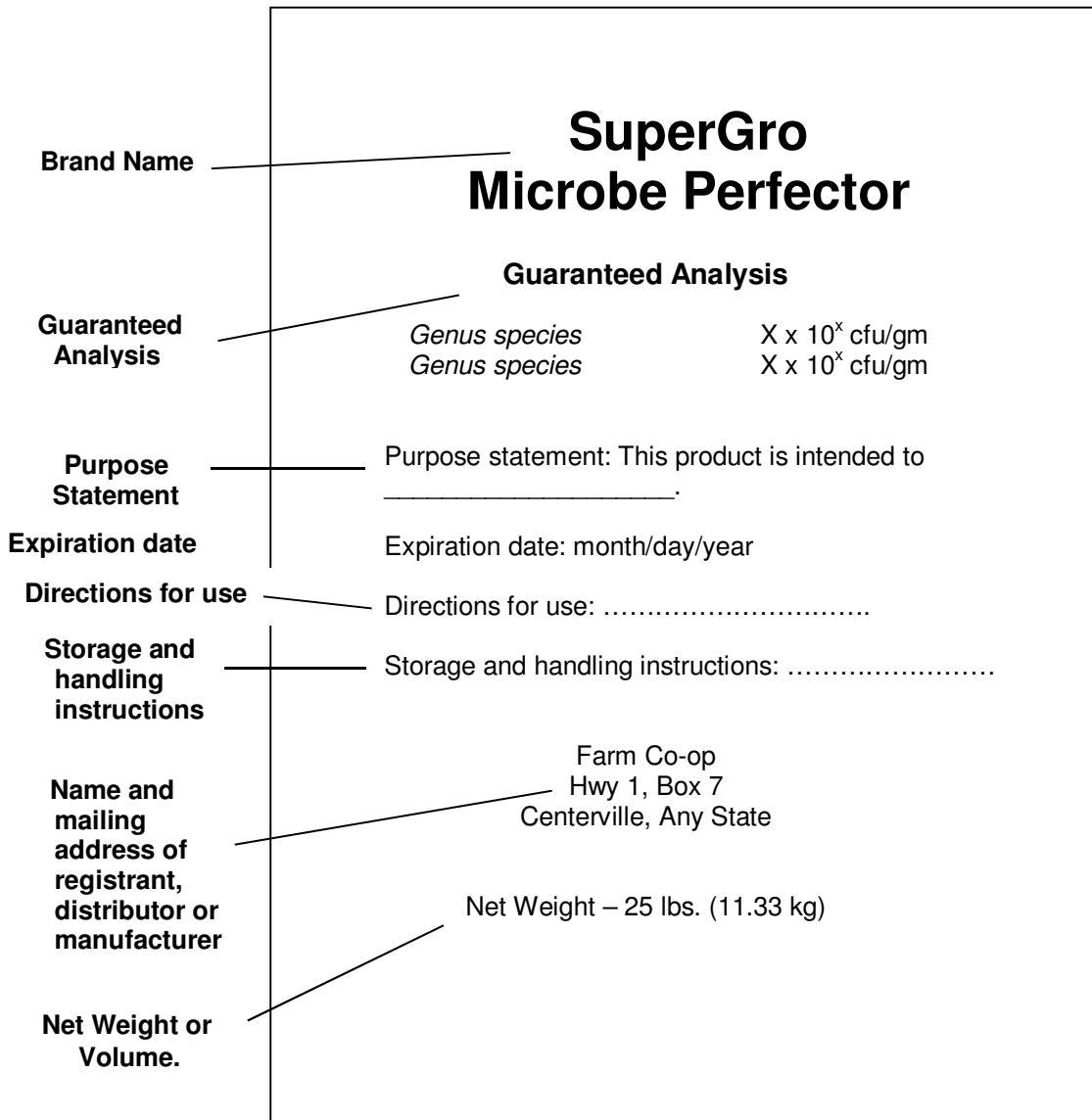
## Label 5: Basic Elements of a Soil Amendment Label, Option 2



## Label 6: Basic Elements of a Plant Amendment Label



## Label 7: Basic Elements of a Microbial Soil Amendment Label



## Label 8: A Complete Fertilizer Label

# Super Green

## 17-17-17

### Guaranteed Analysis

Total Nitrogen (N).....	17.00%
6.66% Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	
10.34% Urea Nitrogen (N)*	
Available Phosphate (P2O5) .....	17.00%
Soluble Potash (K2O).....	17.00%
Calcium (Ca) .....	1.00%
Magnesium (Mg) .....	0.50%
0.50% Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	
Sulfur (S).....	1.00%
1.00% Combined Sulfur (S)	
Boron (B) .....	0.02%
Chlorine (Cl).....	0.10%
Cobalt (Co).....	0.0005%
Copper (Cu) .....	0.05%
Iron (Fe).....	0.10%
0.05% Chelated Iron (Fe)	
0.05% Water Soluble Iron (Fe)	
Manganese (Mn).....	0.05%
0.00% Water Soluble Manganese (Mn)	
Molybdenum (Mo) .....	0.0005%
Sodium (Na).....	0.10%
Zinc (Zn) .....	0.05%
0.05% Chelated Zinc (Zn)	

Plant Nutrients derived from diammonium phosphate, urea, sulfur coated urea, muriate of potash, Calcium carbonate, Magnesium Sulfate, Ammonium Sulfate, Borax, Copper Chloride, Iron Citrate, Ferrous Sulfate, Manganese Oxide, Zinc EDTA, and Sodium Molybdate.

\*3.4% Slowly available nitrogen from sulfur coated urea

Caution: The application of fertilizing materials containing Molybdenum (Mo) may result in forage crops containing levels of Molybdenum (Mo) which are toxic to ruminant animals.

### Directions For Use

Directions for use should include either:

a general statement, (e.g. "Use in accordance with recommendations of a qualified individual or institution, or according to an approved nutrient management plan") or  
detailed directions, such as recommended application rate(s) in units of weight or volume per unit of area coverage that states "apply only as directed", and details of application timing and minimum intervals.

Registrant, Manufacturer, or Distributor Name  
Mailing Address  
City, State

Net Weight-00lbs (00Kg)

