

Factsheet

Using Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser Nitrogen Products in the Herbert sugarcane region.

What are Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser (EEF) Nitrogen Fertiliser products?

These products have been designed to specifically to slow down the release rate of nitrogen from the granule when compared to conventional urea products.



How do EEF products work?

Current granule fertiliser products available to the Herbert cane industry work in 2 ways:

1. The product has a protective polymer membrane over a urea granule, like Agromaster™. Over time the nitrogen is released through the protective membrane which is then available for plant utilisation.
2. The product is treated with a nitrification inhibitor which reduces the rate in which the nitrogen is converted into nitrate and ammonia, like Entec™.
3. Also consider other products (like CalGram™, GramAm™ and Easy N™) which are usually better than urea when managing certain nitrogen loss mechanisms. These products are not regarded as EEF's, however should be considered in some situations.

Why use EEF products?

These products may be considered for the following reasons:

1. To reduce nitrogen losses associated with leaching, volatilisation and denitrification processes, which prevent opportunities for crop uptake and to minimise environmental impacts.
2. Allow “trickle feeding” of nitrogen to the crop overtime to potentially increase yields, when in high nitrogen loss situations.

How do I apply EEF products?

Industry Best Management Practice is to apply all granular fertilisers sub-surface. Surface applications should only occur when field conditions do not permit like: rocks present in field, when there is risk of erosion or other physical constraints.

Do EEF products always deliver the desired outcomes?

In most cases these products will delivered the desired results, however external forces like adverse weather, soil temperature, soil pH and soil microbial activity may cause product failure or less than desirable outcomes.

Are EEF products more expensive?

Yes, generally these products are more expensive.

Consider blended fertilisers which contain a percentage of conventional urea and a portion of the EEF product when using products (like Agromaster™) to reduce costs.

In some cases overall nitrogen rates may be reduced to offset the cost, however crop yield impacts will need to be considered.

These options may offset the additional costs associated with EEF products.

For more information.

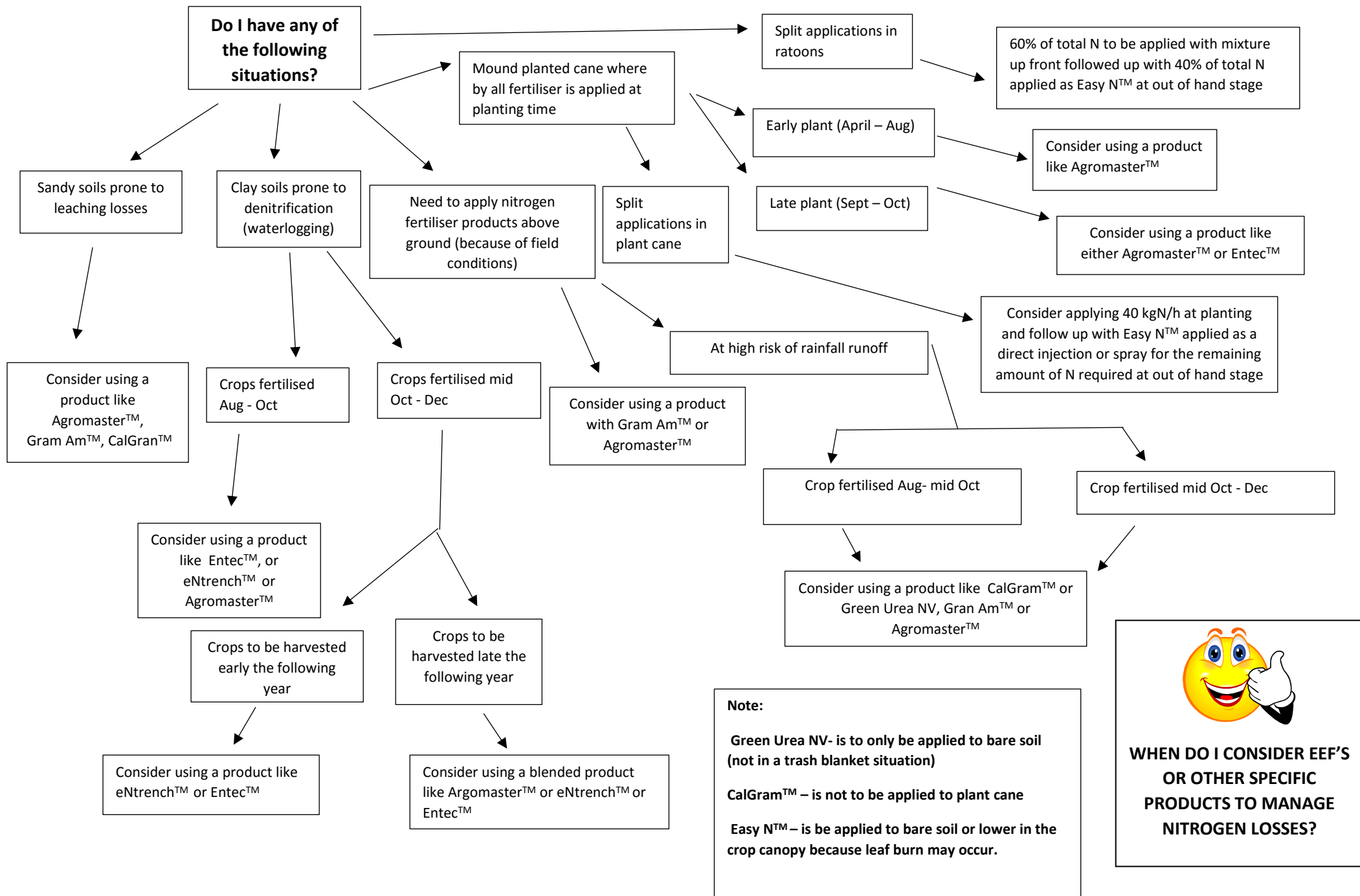
Before using EEF products seek more information from the manufacturer on the product and its use.

Read the product manufactures label before use.

Disclaimer:


HCPSL does not seek to endorse any companies product, however seeks to ensure the safe and effective use of products by the cane industry.

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Note:

- Green Urea NV-** is to only be applied to bare soil (not in a trash blanket situation)
- CalGram™** – is not to be applied to plant cane
- Easy N™** – is be applied to bare soil or lower in the crop canopy because leaf burn may occur.



WHEN DO I CONSIDER EEF'S OR OTHER SPECIFIC PRODUCTS TO MANAGE NITROGEN LOSSES?

