

## Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL05 – Apply Nutrients No More Than 30 Days Prior to Planned Planting Date



### Enhancement Name

This enhancement is for applying nutrients from fertilizer, manures and/or compost no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop.

### Land Use Applicability

Cropland.

### Benefits

Nutrient application timing is critical in order for nutrients to be available during critical crop growth stages and to meet crop yield goals. Nutrients that

are land applied in excess of 30 days prior to the planned crop planting date are potentially lost to the environment causing water quality concerns and potential soil emissions of nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

### Criteria

Implementation of this enhancement requires:

- 1) Fertilizer, manure or any other organic by-products, regardless of form or application method must be applied no more than 30 days prior to the planned crop planting date, or after crop planting.
- 2) The producer must have a current soil test (no more than 3 years old).
- 3) Nutrient application rates must be within the Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.
- 4) Soil surface disturbance must be minimized by nutrient applications.

### Documentation Requirements for Applying Nutrients (fertilizer, manure, etc.) no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop:

- 1) Documentation required for each year of this enhancement:
  - Treatment acres
  - Target (planned) crop
  - Planned planting date
  - Actual planting date and crop planted
  - Soil test results
  - Crop yields (both yield goals and measured yield)



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- Nutrient application rates/amounts and application dates for each treatment area
- 2) A map showing where the activities are applied.

### **References**

Follett, R.F. 2001. Nitrogen Transformation and Transport Processes. pp. 17-44, In R.F. Follett and J. Hatfield. (eds.). 2001. Nitrogen in the Environment; Sources, Problems, and Solutions. Elsevier Science Publishers. The Netherlands. 520 pp.

Stevenson, F.J. (ed.) 1982. Nitrogen in Agricultural Soils. Agron. Series 22. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.

## **Michigan Supplement**

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### **State Criteria**

There is no additional criteria for Michigan.