

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CVILC Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report (INMPSR)

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Is the INMP Summary Report required?

- a. Yes. The General Order requires that all growers submit an Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report to the Coalition annually. The Coalition summarizes and anonymizes your data before submitting it to the Regional Water Board as required under the General Order.

I do not apply nitrogen. Do I still have to complete the report?

- a. Yes, you still need to complete the report even if you do not apply nitrogen. Just enter "0" for fields asking for applied nitrogen values.

What is a Management Unit (MU)?

- a. Management Units are a way to group the data you report for your farm operations. When reporting on a portion of a parcel or multiple parcels, Management units allow you to group together management practice and crop results when the land is operated in the same way and has the same yield:
- b. Management Units for a particular piece of a parcel or group of parcels must:
 - a. be planted to the same crop,
 - b. include crops of the same age category (age categories are 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, and greater than 4 years),
 - c. include the same amount of nitrogen applied,
 - d. have the same yield,
 - e. have the same irrigation method(s), and
 - f. have the same management efficiencies.
 - g. Portal – the Management Description must also be the same for the portal to recognize/group management units.

How do I report yield?

- a. Yield is reported in pounds per acre and includes the total crop yield for the entire season. If there were multiple harvests, you would report the sum of all harvests for the crop year, and then divide by the total acreage to achieve pounds/acre.
- b. *If you grow grain crops and harvest straw separately, report the straw harvest as a separate management unit on the same land (similar to double-cropped fields). This will ensure you receive credit for the additional nitrogen removed from the field with the straw harvest.*

What production units should I report?

- a. Enter the units in which your per acre yield is reported (e.g., tons, pounds, bins, cartons, bales, etc.). The Coalition converts all units to pounds based on the unit reported so select the most accurate production unit option in the dropdown menu.

What should I include in the "Yield Info" section?

- a. Use this column to provide additional information about your yield that is important when comparing your yield to other members growing the same crop. This includes indicating if the crop is nonbearing, was not irrigated, could not be harvested, was damaged due to pests or weather, or types of harvest (e.g. seed or rootstock).

How do I report the crop age for an orchard with mixed ages?

- a. Depending on your situation you can give the age of the majority of trees or estimate the acreage associated with a particular age category (see below), and report with separate Management Units. If you have areas/sections of your farm that are of a similar age, you can separate out that information by acreage. Wherever possible, try to report areas with differences in yields separately, such as immature sections that are not in full production.
- b. Age categories are 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, and greater than 4 years.
 - i. Example of providing an age based on the majority of the acreage:
 - a) A 100-acre parcel with mostly 10-year-old trees has a small area with 6-year-old trees. The younger trees are mixed in with the older orchard which is still about 80% 10-year-old trees and nitrogen is applied based on the needs of the older trees. The age would be reported as “10 years”.
 - ii. Example of splitting out your information by acreage:
 - a) A 100-acre parcel contains 40 acres of 10-year-old trees, 20 acres of 6-year-old trees and 20 acres of immature trees (less than 4 years old). The nitrogen applied and the harvested yield would be reported for each of the acreages: 40 acres (10-year-old trees), 20 acres (6-year-old trees) and 20 acres (< 4-year-old trees [immature]).

What does “N in irrigation water” refer to?

- a. The “N in Irrigation Water” field of the worksheet or the portal refers to the amount of nitrogen in the irrigation water BEFORE any synthetic fertilizer is added, i.e., it is not referring to “fertigation” practices. Rather, it is the amount of nitrogen in the water when it is delivered from the irrigation district or directly from the irrigation well.

How do I report nitrogen in my irrigation source water?

- a. In some cases, there is already nitrogen in your irrigation source water. It is recommended to test your irrigation water to determine the concentration of nitrogen in your water before you apply fertilizers. **The membership portal contains a nitrogen calculator for your convenience.** Instructions for how to calculate the amount by hand are below.

To calculate the pounds of nitrogen applied per acre with the irrigation water, multiply the nitrogen concentration of the irrigation water by the total *ac-ft.* of water used per acre by the appropriate conversion factor:

$$\text{Nitrate concentration in water (mg/L or ppm)} \times \text{ac-ft. water used per acre} \times \text{conversion factor} \\ = \text{pounds N applied per acre}$$

The conversion factor to use depends on the units used for the nitrate concentration. Typically, nitrate concentration is reported in either **nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N)** or **nitrate-nitrate (NO₃-NO₃)**.

To calculate pounds of nitrogen applied per acre with irrigation water if your nitrate concentration is reported in **nitrate-nitrogen (NO3-N)** use the following formula:

$$\text{NO3-N concentration (mg/L or ppm)} \times \text{ac-ft. water used per acre} \times 2.72 = \text{pounds N applied per acre}$$

Example:

Average nitrate concentration = 8 mg/L or 8 ppm as NO3-N

Total volume of water = 1.6 ac-ft. per acre

$$8 \text{ mg/L(or ppm)} \times 1.6 \text{ ac-ft. per acre} \times 2.72 = 34.82 \text{ pounds N applied per acre}$$

To calculate pounds of nitrogen applied per acre with irrigation water if your nitrate concentration is reported in **nitrate-nitrate (NO3-NO3)** use the following formula:

$$\text{NO3-NO3 concentration (mg/L or ppm)} \times \text{ac-ft. water used per acre} \times 0.62 = \text{pounds N applied per acre}$$

Example:

Average nitrate concentration = 20 mg/L or 20 ppm as NO3-NO3

Total volume of water = 1.41 ac-ft. per acre

$$20 \text{ mg/L(or ppm)} \times 1.41 \text{ ac-ft. per acre} \times 0.62 = 17.48 \text{ pounds N applied per acre}$$

How do I report dry or liquid fertilizer applications?

- a. Fertilizer applications should be reported as the amount of **nitrogen** applied in **pounds per acre**. The amount of nitrogen applied is calculated based on the nitrogen content of the fertilizer. Do not report the total amount of fertilizer applied which may include other nutrients or ingredients and result in an over- estimation of your nitrogen applications.
- b. Nitrogen fertilizers have three numbers on the label such as 10-20-10 or 10-10-10 and these numbers represent the percentage of the three major nutrients, nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K). Below is a table of examples of how to determine the pounds of nitrogen in different fertilizer products.

Product / Product Unit:	Multiply By:	To Determine
UN32 / Gallons	3.539	Pounds Nitrogen
Ammonium Sulfate / Pounds	0.21	Pounds Nitrogen
Potassium Nitrate / Pounds	0.15	Pounds Nitrogen
Calcium Nitrate	0.15	Pounds Nitrogen
15/15/15	0.15	Pounds Nitrogen

How do I report organic amendments?

- a. The amount of nitrogen applied from organic sources such as compost and manure should be reported in **pounds of nitrogen per acre**. Generally, these sources do not have a guaranteed nutrient content, but the amount of nitrogen can be estimated based on nitrogen testing from the supplier or by using typical nitrogen content conversion factors. Contact the Coalition for more resources regarding converting organic amendment applications to pounds of nitrogen per acre.

How do I report foliar fertilizer applications?

- a. Report the amount of nitrogen applied to the crop canopy or above ground plant parts throughout the crop year, in pounds per acre. The amount of nitrogen applied is calculated based on the nitrogen content of the fertilizer.

How do I report for a nursery operation?

- a. Nursery operations should utilize the “Nursery, Potted” and/or “Nursery, Bare Root” crop options for reporting. Nurseries should not be reported by the individual commodities that are grown.
 - i. Growers should approach reporting nitrogen in lbs/acre and yield in lbs/acre, on a “best-effort” basis as it is understood it is difficult to report these values for nurseries.
 - ii. Yield should be reported as a best estimate of units sold and management units can be built around this estimate.

Who to contact if you need help?

- a. Our staff is happy to answer any questions you have via phone or email. Call 530-756-5200 ext. 1010, or email contact.us@cvilc.org.