Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
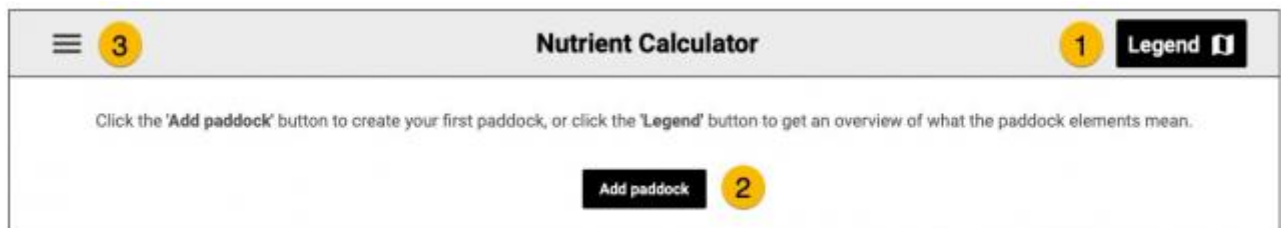
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Factsheet

12 February 2021

Guidelines for using the nutrient calculator for high rainfall pastures in Western Australia

Getting started

[Click this link](#)

- Click the Legend button (1) to gain familiarity with the layout, fields and data requirements

- Click the Add paddock button (2) to add a paddock
    - Enter a paddock name (4)
    - Select soil texture (5)
    - Enter soil test data (6)
    - Expand the view to see additional parameters (7)
    - See a full page view of the data (8)

- Click the ≡ menu icon (3) to see other options
    - Change the colour scheme to suit normally sighted or colour blind option (9)
    - Generate a simple or detailed report with or without an included legend (10)
    - Export entered paddock data to Excel (11)
    - Import paddock data from a pre-formatted Excel file (12)

Alternate colours	to	9
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Import Paddocks		12

- Click the delete button to remove a paddock.

Entering data manually

- Enter data into each of the fields for a paddock
  - Paddock name.
  - Choose soil texture from the popup menu.
  - Enter PBI, pH ($CaCl_2$), Colwell phosphorus, Colwell potassium, sulfur (KCl-40S) values from soil test records.
  - Fields will change colour according to nutrient status (see legend).

- Once these data have been entered, click the down arrow to expand the view and to enter additional parameters which includes:
  - the year, which defaults to the current calendar year
  - relative yield target, which defaults to 90% – use the popup menu to select different values
  - fertiliser choice from the popup menu.

- After entering all the data, ellipses (...) will show additional information to assist interpretation.

Importing data

- You can import data for multiple paddocks at once. The calculator can accommodate a maximum of 150 paddocks.
- To import data:
  - Prepare an Excel spreadsheet with correctly formatted data (see example below).
  - Choose import paddocks (12) from the ≡ menu icon (3)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Name	Year	Yield target	Soil texture	pHCaCl2	PBI	Colwell P	Colwell K	KCl40S
2	Back	2020	90	1	4.2	10	10	95	5.2
3	Middle	2020	90	2.5	5	35	24	130	7.9
4	Hay	2020	95	3	5.3	25	18	90	19.2
5									
6									
7									

- If unsure, set yield target to the default relative yield of 90 (which is 90% of maximum yield) for grazing paddocks, and 95 for hay paddocks.
- For texture, use either text descriptions or numeric equivalents from the table below. Your soil test data may already report texture using numbers, and you may be able to use these if they are reported from specific laboratories.

Text	Number
Sand	1
Sandy loam	1.5
Sandy clay loam	2.0
Clay loam	2.5

Exporting data

- Data can be exported from this calculator, and the exported data subsequently re-imported to re-establish a previous session

- Exported data includes the primary data entered in order to complete calculations, but not the calculated results. Calculated results are available in generated PDF reports.
- To export data:
    - choose export paddocks (11) from the ≡ menu (3)
- The exported file is an Excel spreadsheet containing 2 worksheets, one containing paddock data and one containing fertiliser nutrient content data

Generate report

- To generate a report, choose create report (10) from the ≡ menu (3)
- Make selections in the dialog
    - Toggling on advanced reporting generates a detailed report, otherwise a simple colour tabular report is generated (13)
    - Toggle on or off the inclusion of the legend infographic (14)
- Click download to export a pdf report with the selected options

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Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.