



Georgia Department of Agriculture

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Gary W. Black
Commissioner

GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION OF SOIL AMENDMENTS WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLANT FOOD, FEED & GRAIN DIVISION

The Georgia Soil Amendment Act of 1976, Section 5-3604 Registration, states that the Commissioner may require proof of claims made, or proof of usefulness and value of a soil amendment.

As evidence of proof of efficacy of soil amendment, the Commissioner may request that the company seeking registration furnish him with experimental research data done on their product. When such research data is received by the Department of Agriculture, the Department reserves the right to request an established committee of the Agronomy Division of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture to review the data, and after such review, make recommendations to the Department regarding the suitability of individual products for registration. The experimental research data submitted to the Department should conform to the following guidelines. Two copies of all data shall be furnished.

RESEARCH DATA GUIDELINES

1. Submit research data only (no testimonials) from such groups as land-grant universities, USDA, or other reputable research organizations.
2. Research must be conducted on at least (2) two soil types common to Georgia with (2) two years of data for each location. At least one location should be in Georgia.
3. Active ingredients of a product must be listed in the Chemical Abstracts or latest editions of Mercks Index. (Coined chemical names not acceptable.)
4. Research data submitted must be for crops and/or plants commonly grown in Georgia.
5. Research must be presented in the following format:

A. Title Page

1. The product tested and the crop with the plant or nutrient response being measured.
2. Dates and locations of research trials.
3. Investigators, including their credentials.
4. The financial link, if any, between the investigating agency and the product company.

B. Introduction

1. Identify each product claim (use the exact wording that appears on the product label.)
2. Include a brief statement about the nature and the use of the product.

C. Experimental Procedure

1. A minimum characterization of the experimental sites should include soil classification, soil texture, soil reaction (pH), fertility levels, soil organic matter and previous crop.
2. Description of the pertinent details of the research procedure (i.e. planting date and rate, variety/hybrid, weed control method, tillage operations, fertilizer rate, method of application and source, etc.)
3. The layout and design of the experiment should be given in sufficient detail for the reviewer to ascertain that treatment border effects were eliminated and plots were of sufficient size to assure unbiased samples. An experimental design procedures source such as "Agricultural Experimental Design and Analysis" by Little and Hill, published by John Wiley & Sons, New York, should be consulted.
4. Treatment should include:
 - a. A control area not treated with the test product. The control should receive fertilizer and pesticides as recommended by Cooperative Extension Personnel.
 - b. An area using the product at the rate and method of application specified on the label.
 - c. Other treatments as needed to verify claims.
5. The treatments should be randomly assigned to individual plots and at least three replications should be used.

D. Results and Discussion

1. Data should be presented in standard English units in tables or figures with appropriate statistical analysis. A significance level of 10% or less may be used.
2. Discussion of the data should be in lay terms whenever possible.

E. Conclusions

1. Results should be summarized and discussed as to their proof of product effectiveness claims.

F. Literature Cited

1. List references in the manner suggested in the Style Manual for scientific publications similar to those published by the American Society of Agronomy.