



## **HOW TO CALIBRATE YOUR BROADCAST SPREADER TO APPLY TURF TRUST® AT THE RECOMMENDED RATE**

### **Here's what you need:**

1. Tape Measure
2. Marking flags or sticks
3. Clean bucket, plastic bag or container – big enough and strong enough to hold about 8 lbs. of Turf Trust®
4. Digital Scale
5. Calculator
6. Broadcast Spreader
7. Turf Trust® Lawn Fertilizer or Turf Trust® Starter Fertilizer

### **Here's what to do:**

1. Adjust the setting on your spreader until the flow gates at the bottom of the hopper are open approximately 5/16-inch at the widest point. Record the setting number.
2. Determine the width of your spreaders "throw". Put 6 – 8 lbs of Turf Trust® in your broadcast spreader. Open the flow gate to the 5/16-inch setting determined in Step 1. Start pushing the spreader at your normal walking pace. Measure and record the width your spreader "throws" Turf Trust®. After determining the width of "throw", put the remaining Turf Trust® back in the bag.
3. Select a level area of your lawn with the least obstructions. You want an open area so you can operate your spreader in a straight line.
4. Using your tape measure, measure and mark a test strip in your lawn of at least 50 feet. The longer the test strip, the more accurate your results.

Turf Trust® Lawn Fertilizer 24-0-12 & Turf Trust® Starter 24-2-12 are available in two coverage sizes: 5,000 square feet (15.6 lbs) and 10,000 square feet (31.2 lbs).

The feeding rate for Turf Trust® is 3.12 lbs. per 100 square feet.

- 15.6 lbs. divided by 5 = 3.12 lbs. per sq. ft.

- 31.2 lbs. divided by 10 = 3.12 lbs. per sq. ft.

5. Place a clean, empty, and dry bucket, container on a digital scale.
  - a. Record the weight of the empty bucket or container.
  - b. Put enough Turf Trust® in the container so you have at least 8 lbs. of Turf Trust®  
Example: Empty container weighs 2 lbs. Scale should read 10 lbs. after adding 8 lbs. of Turf Trust®
6. Using your tape measure, adjust the flow gate opening in the bottom of your broadcast spreader until it measures 5/16-inch. A 5/16-inch opening is a good "Rule of Thumb" measurement for most broadcast spreaders. Open & close the flow gate several times, and then re-measure and adjust if necessary to maintain a 5/16-inch opening. Record the setting number for the 5/16-inch opening.



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7. Move your broadcast spreader to your measured test strip. Make sure the flow gate is closed, and pour the 8 lbs. of Turf Trust® into the hopper.
8. Open the flow gate to the 5/16-inch setting and start spreading the length of the test strip. Be sure to walk at a normal, repeatable pace. The discharge rate of your spreader is greatly affected by your walking pace.
9. Close the flow gate when you reach the end of the test strip. Pour the Turf Trust® remaining in the hopper back into the measuring container and weigh it, recording the results.
  - a. Subtract the weight of the remaining Turf Trust® from the initial weight. This tells you to how many pounds of Turf Trust® you applied to the test strip.
10. Calculate the pounds of Turf Trust® applied per sq. ft.

### **Example:**

- ◆ Initial total weight of Turf Trust® (including the container) = 10 lbs.
- ◆ Ending total weight of Turf Trust® = 8 lbs.
- ◆  $10 \text{ lbs.} - 7 \text{ lbs.} = 3 \text{ lbs.}$  of Turf Trust® applied to the test strip.
- ◆ Spreader throw = 8 feet.
- ◆ Length of Test strip = 100 feet.
- ◆  $8 \text{ foot throw} \times 100 \text{ feet} = 800 \text{ sq. ft.}$  of test strip.
- ◆  $(3 \text{ lbs.} \times 1,000 \text{ sq. ft.}) \div 800 \text{ sq. ft. test strip} = 3.75 \text{ lbs. per } 1,000 \text{ sq. ft.}$

The recommended rate for Turf Trust® is 3.12 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. In this example, you would close the flow gate slightly and check again on another test strip.

Calibration may seem involved, but this method considers spreader model, mechanical condition, walking pace, and lawn terrain to determine the correct setting. Turf Trust® is exceptional fertilizer and you don't want to waste it by over applying.

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