

4 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR GOOD TEFF YIELDS

Benefits of nitrogen

- Promotes rapid plant growth
- Helps plants produce many tillers
- Ensures tillers contain more grain heads
- Ensures good grain quality
- Sustains high teff yields



NITROGEN

Symptoms of nitrogen deficiency

- Short plants with few tillers
- Pale green or yellowish plants
- Lower leaves turn yellow
- Short thin stems with few tillers
- Small grain head size with few grains



A N-deficient teff crop (top) appears pale and thin compared to a well-fertilized stand (bottom).



Nitrogen-deficient teff plants are shorter, spindly, and have few tillers. Nitrogen deficiency initially effects the bottom leaves, which turn pale green or yellow, then wither and turn brown. The teff plants shown above were supplied with zero, low and optimal N (left to right).

Images courtesy CFPN (Fanosie Mekonen/Natalie Cohen Kadosh photographers)

Right Source

Recommended basal N sources include DAP and NPS fertilizers such as 19:38:0+7(S) and 19:38:0+7(S)+2.2(Zn).

Apply urea fertilizer to supply N during top dressing.

Right Rate

Right N rate is 60-75 kg per ha depending on local conditions.

Consult your local extension officer to determine the right rate for your teff field based on the N content of available fertilizer, field size, soil type, and target yields.



<https://4rsolution.org>

Right Time

Basal application: Apply half the required N rate during sowing. Ensure that the right rate of other nutrients, such as P, are co-applied with N for best yields.

Top dressing: Apply the remaining N required as urea at the onset of tillering.

Right Place

For both basal and top dress applications, broadcast fertilizer uniformly across the entire field.

Before top dressing, ensure that the teff field is well weeded.