Using Tankage, A Local Organic Fertilizer, for Crop Production in Hawaii

By Tiare Silvasy
Graduate Student, UH Manoa
Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences

The problem

Photo credit: Matson Navigation Company, Inc.

Tankage: a good source of nitrogen

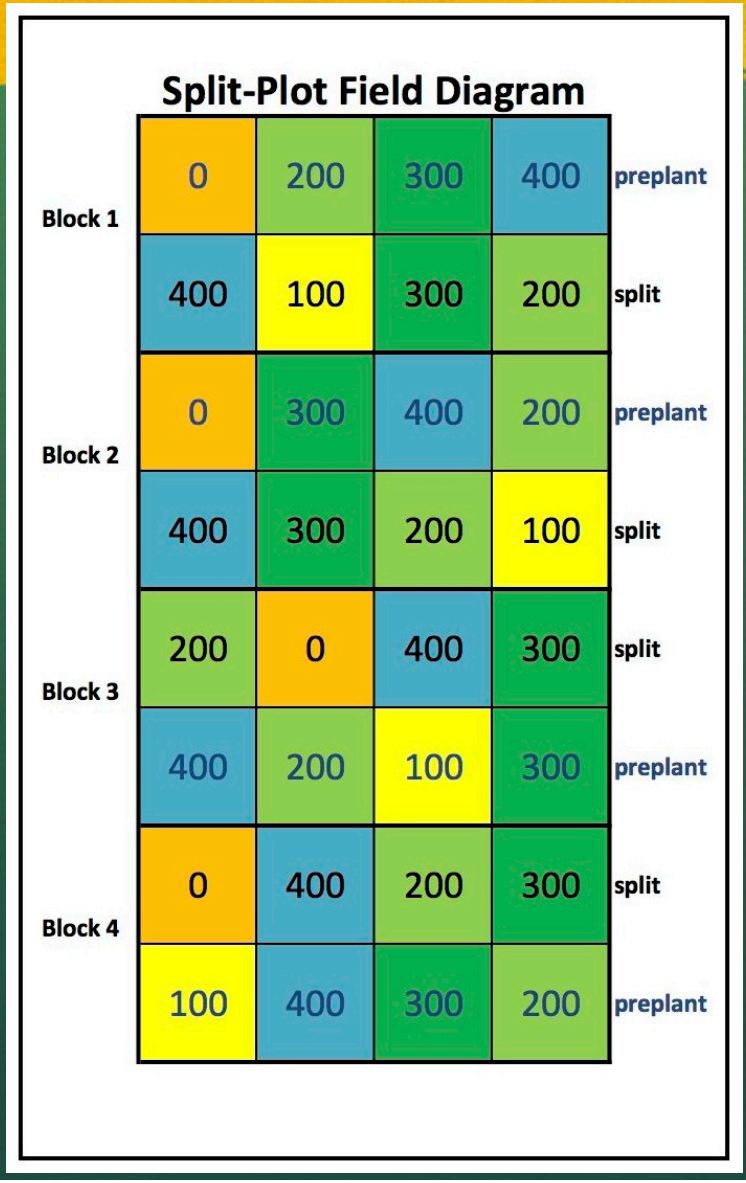
- Average analysis contains 9-10% N
- Industry by-product made of fish, meat and some bone meal
- Available locally from Baker Commodities
- Cost less than other OMRI certified products at $0.30/lb

Photo credit: www.uaex.edu

Nitrogen deficiency in corn reduces yields, excess N is costly and harmful to the environment

How much is enough?
What is the best timing?

Fertilizer rates and timing

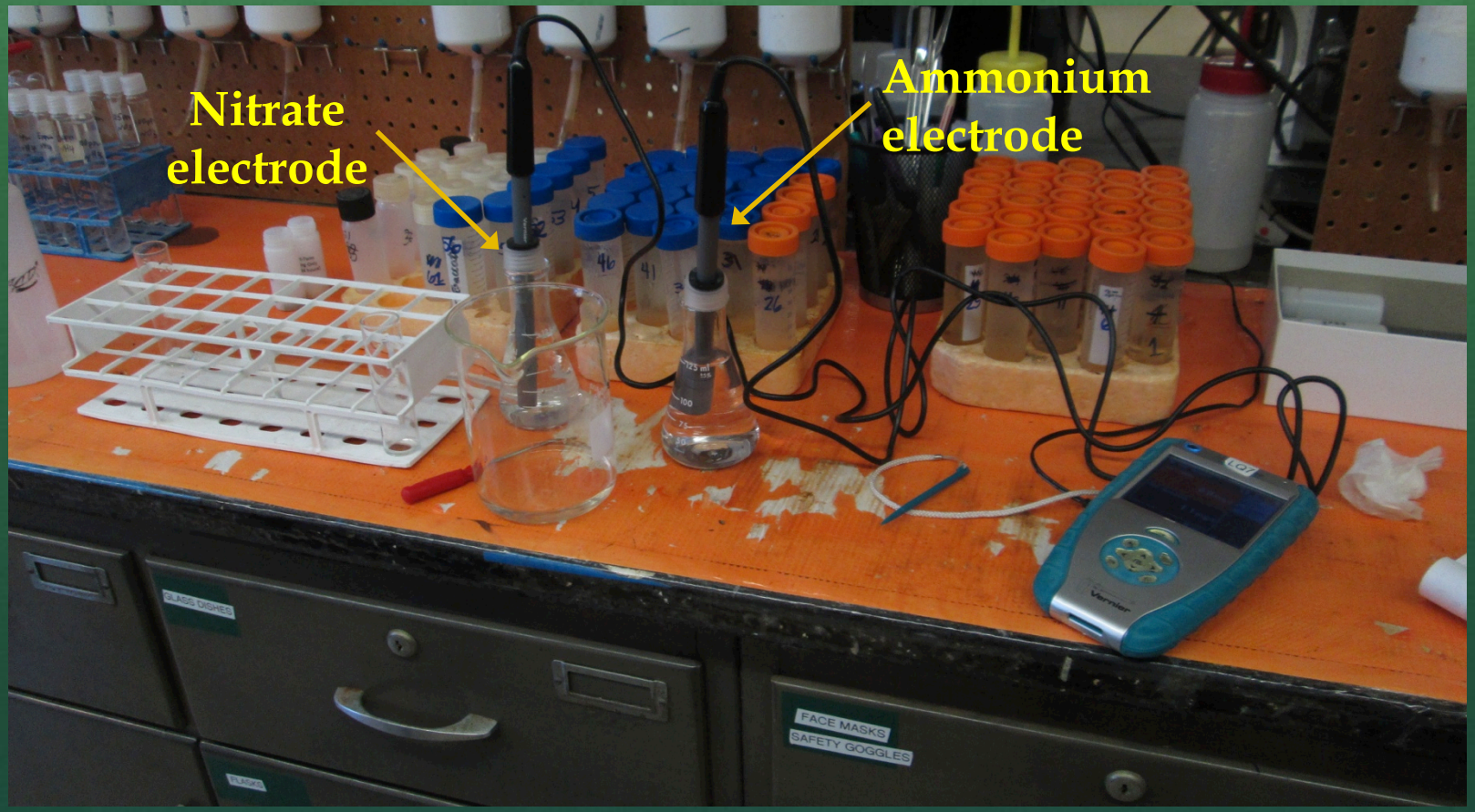


Field set-up

Plants at 3 weeks

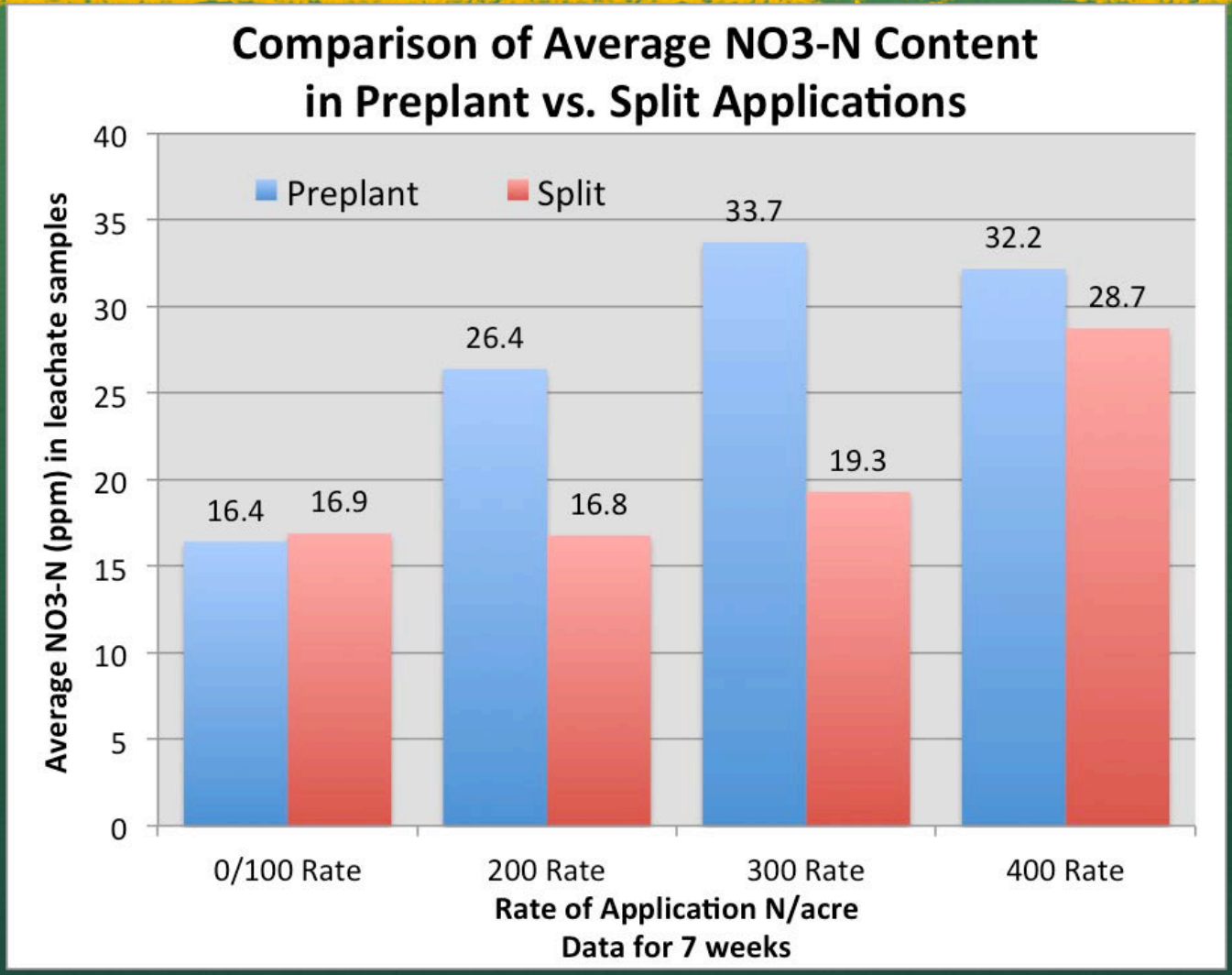
Data collection using a SPAD meter

Analysis of nitrates



Observations at 7 weeks

Less Nitrate Leaching in Split Application Plots



Questions?