

RLF TECHNICAL NOTE

TECHNICAL NOTE 1

INTEGRATED FERTILISER PROGRAM FOR RICE

by Dr Hooshang Nassery, Head of Technical

As rice yields of 10 tonnes/ha is now targeted globally and in Australia, the nutrition of rice needs to be carefully controlled to achieve such high yields.

For example, split application of nitrogen and supplementation of phosphorus is recommended in the “Rice check” publication of NSW Agriculture. Split application of phosphorus is also recommended for obtaining higher yield in Sri Lanka.

BSN RICE SEED PRIMING FERTILISER (SEED)

Seed priming with BSN Rice or BSN Superstrike improves plant establishment and yield potential, for different methods of rice seed priming with BSN refer to the relevant technical bulletins.

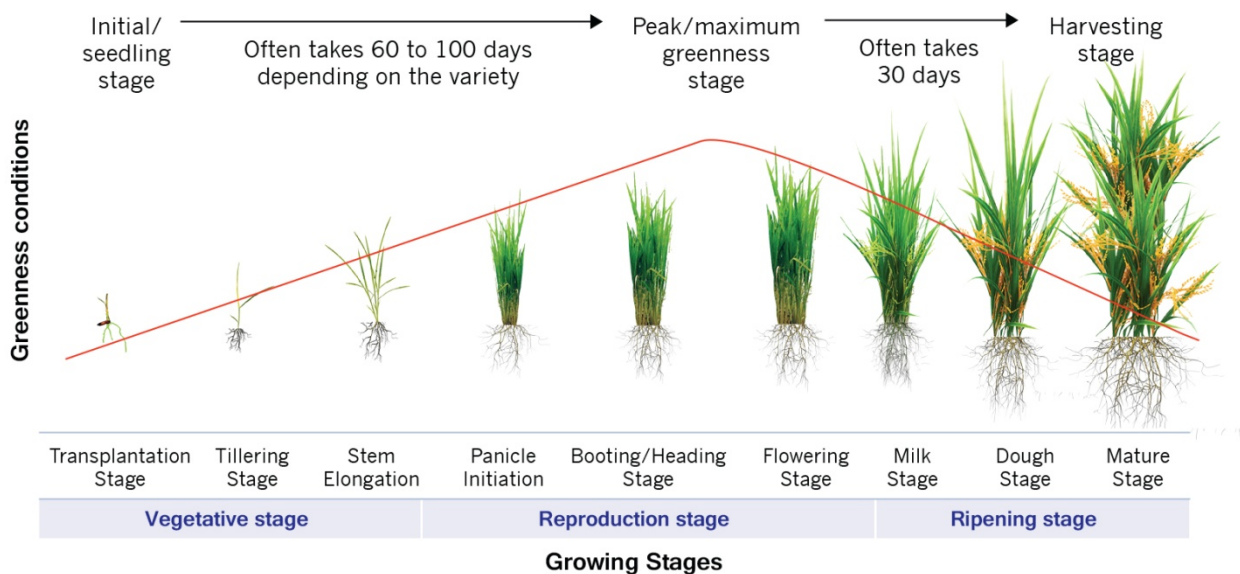
RICE KING PART 1 FOLIAR FERTILISER (VEGETATIVE STAGE)

RLF foliar products for rice are generally recommended at the rate of 1L /tonne of target yield. Since good canopy development prior to panicle initiation is required for high yield, RLF has developed a high nitrogen product for vegetative phase of growth to be applied at early tillering (Z2) @ 2L/h and at elongation stage (Z3) @ 3L/h.

RICE KING PART 2 FOLIAR FERTILISER (REPRODUCTIVE STAGE)

The high potassium and high phosphorus product for reproductive phase should be applied at panicle initiation (Z4) @ 4L/h and at heading (Z5) @ 5L/h. The following diagram shows the growth phase suitable for the four recommended foliar sprays for rice.

The following diagram of Rice Growth Stages is from *Mosleh et al, Sensors 15, pages 769–791, 2015*,



Foliar recommended rates given above are for 10t/h or higher yield, these rates could be reduced when target yields are lower.

Leaf sampling : sample leaves from Youngest Expanded Blade (YEB) at mid-tillering to monitor the fertiliser program and make necessary changes to the remaining foliar sprays if need be.

Leaf samples can also be taken at early panicle initiation in order to formulate tank mixes for better response.

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POSITION

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The foliar program recommended in this technical note for rice could be modified based on other relevant information such as soil and leaf nutrient analysis, fertiliser program and target yield. Thus addition of major elements to this foliar may be needed to maximize the crop response in some cases.