

# Fertilizer burn

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**Fertilizer burn** is defined as leaf scorch resulting from over-fertilization, usually referring to excess nitrogen salts.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

Fertilizer burn is the result of desiccation of plant tissues due to osmotic stress, creating a state of hypertonicity.

Fertilizers vary in their tendency to burn roughly in accordance with their salt index.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Treatment

Fertilizer burn can be remedied by soaking the soil with water to flush out excess salts.<sup>[1]</sup> It can be prevented by applying only dilute or controlled-release fertilizer products.<sup>[1][5]</sup>



Fertilizer burn on a leaf.

## See also

- Bacterial leaf scorch
- Fertilizer
- Leaf scorch
- Chlorosis
- Soil salinity
- Biotic stress
- abiotic stress
- Ozone

## References

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4. Labosk, Carrie. "Understanding Salt Index of Fertilizers" (PDF). *University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Soil Science*. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2013-05-28.
5. Parsons, Jerry M. "Lawn Fertilization". *PlantAnswers.com*. Archived from the original on 2008-09-05.

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