

The Manure Spreading Advisory Committee (consisting of industry and government representatives) is advising **careful manure application for select fields**. The committee will monitor weather and soil conditions and will issue further advisories as conditions change.

Additional Information

Manure Storage

- Winter manure applications are not recommended. It is prudent to have enough manure storage to include the average expected precipitation plus account for unforeseen circumstances such as excessive precipitation.
- Plan manure applications to empty storage facilities before the rainy season. Manure applications in the fall are recommended only for forage grasses.
- Develop a contingency plan to outline an effective response in case of an emergency. The plan could include identification of nearby abandoned pits, contact information for vacuum trucks, and easy access to the provincial spill reporting hotline.

Harvested Annual Crops (including corn and vegetables)

- Manure applications are not acceptable on harvested fields.

Cover Crops

- Manure applications should only be considered if a fall soil test shows the need for nutrients and a winter cover crop has been or will be established before the end of the growing season.
- As the days get shorter and colder, cover crops are less able to take up nutrients. Also, as fall rains arrive, the risk of nutrient runoff and leaching increases.
- Residual nutrients from the summer crop may be present in the soil and in sufficient quantity to support the winter cover crop.

Perennial Grassland

- Manure application on perennial grasses is usually appropriate as long as crop growth and warmer weather patterns (greater than 5°C) continue; fields are trafficable; and precipitation does not create runoff.
- Application rates should meet crop nutrient requirements.
- Appropriate buffer widths should be maintained to minimize runoff risks.

Berry Crops

- Fall manure applications for berry crops is not necessary or recommended.
- If manure is used on fields that are being renovated for new plantings, a cover crop should also be planted. The cover crop should be planted in a timely manner such that it becomes well established prior to the end of the growing season. Consider the recommendations made for raspberries in the Berry Production Guide, <http://productionguide.agrifoodbc.ca/guides/14>

Additional Resources

- [Agricultural Waste Control Regulation](#) This is the actual legislation that applies to manure management in British Columbia.
- [Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide \(Canada-BC EFP Program\)](#)
- [Nutrient Management Reference Guide \(Canada-BC EFP Program\)](#)
- *Ammonia Loss from Manure* interactive tool at: <http://www.farmwest.com/climate/ammonia>