

COVERAGE PER TANK LOAD

There is a lot of misinformation and confusion (sometimes intentional) about coverage rates per tank load. Coverage per tank load is a function of the amount of mulch put on the ground. In the event of hydro seeding (seeding not using any mulch), the coverage per tank load is almost limitless. The following is an attempt to shed some light on the situation and give some general information. Please keep in mind that there is no substitute for actual experience.

Variables: Type of mulch (virgin wood fiber, paper, blend), brand of mulch, additives making slurry “slicker”, tower operation vs. hose, length of hose if using hose, experience or expertise of operator.

Generally: Using a quality brand of virgin wood fiber mulch, without an additive, shooting from the tower, with an average operator, a Bowie Hydro-Mulcher will handle approximately 1 lb. of mulch per 2 gallons of water. The superior mechanical agitation with shredder bar and straight through plumbing system enables these heavier loading rates. The loading rates for paper mulch is approximately 2 lbs. of mulch per 3 gallons of water.

Basic Math: Generally, the benchmark rate for mulch application is 2,000 lbs. per acre. Since there are approximately 44,000 sq. ft. per acre, 1 lb. of mulch will cover 22 sq. ft.

Coverage Per Tank Load Chart: Using the above assumptions, the following chart gives the approximate coverage per tank load using a 2,000 lbs. per acre rate for virgin wood fiber and paper mulches.

Size	Virgin Wood Fiber	Paper
300	3,300 sq. ft.	4,400 sq. ft.
500	5,500 sq. ft.	7,333 sq. ft.
600	6,600 sq. ft.	8,800 sq. ft.
800	8,800 sq. ft.	11,733 sq. ft.
1100	12,100 sq. ft.	16,133 sq. ft.
1500	16,500 sq. ft.	22,000 sq. ft.
3000	33,000 sq. ft.	44,000 sq. ft.

Other Mulch Rates: The above chart is easily converted to other common mulch rates by using the following factors.

- 1,000 lbs. / acre - multiply sq. ft. by 2
- 1,500 lbs. / acre - multiply sq. ft. by 1.33
- 2,000 lbs. / acre - no adjustment necessary
- 2,500 lbs. / acre - multiply sq. ft. by .8
- 3,000 lbs. / acre - multiply sq. ft. by .67

Generally speaking, it requires a higher application of paper mulch to achieve the same results as with virgin fiber mulch. Please consider this when choosing paper vs. virgin wood fiber mulch.