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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:

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Calculating Surface Area in Your Landscape—Is it important?

Knowing how many square feet you have in your landscape is extremely important. It is the first step to take toward good environmental stewardship. Examples of times when you need this information include: applying a fertilizer, pesticide, topdressing material, irrigation water, and when purchasing seed, sod, sprigs or plugs during establishment of turfgrass. Pesticide and fertilizer use in home lawns are recommended in pounds or ounces per hundred or thousand square feet. Without knowing the exact size of your landscape, you have to estimate. Many times this is the reason that pesticides fail to work correctly. The product was not applied at the proper rate.

In order to apply products in an appropriate manner with an environmentally friendly approach, one must take the time to measure and calculate the surface area of their site. It is an easy task to perform, it doesn't take a lot of time, and the calculations are relatively easy. In addition, you will normally only need to measure the site once. Record the information and save it. So, do the right thing and measure the surface area of your landscape. More importantly, use this value when applying products to your lawn! Encourage your friends to never again show up at the garden center to buy lawn care products without knowing the size of their lawn. They will thank you for it!!

The Gregg County Extension web site, (Gregg-tx.tamu.edu) has more information on calculating surface area of home lawns

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