

Cornell Cropware: Software for Nutrient Management Planning in New York State

Many farms are following nutrient management plans to satisfy regulatory requirements as well as make more efficient use of manure and fertilizer. Cornell Cropware is used by producers and advisors to develop plans that guide the use of manure and fertilizer for high yielding, high quality crops and clean water. Cropware is designed to develop plans in-line with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Nutrient Management Standard (590 Standard), making the output of Cropware a key component of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

So what can be done with Cropware?

1. Account for manure quantities and nutrients from multiple sources on the farm (e.g. different barns, silage leachate, milkhouse effluent, etc.).
2. Apply the Cornell crop nutrient guidelines for a full range of field crops and vegetable crops.
3. Determine nutrient credits from many sources, including manure, soil, and plowed sods to make the most of on-farm nutrient supplies.
4. Convert the soil test values from other laboratories (e.g. A&L, Brookside, Spectrum, and the University of Vermont) into Cornell Morgan soil test equivalents in order to apply the Cornell crop nutrient guidelines.
5. Assess the risk of runoff and leaching with the use of the New York State Phosphorus Runoff Index and the Nitrate Leaching Index.
6. Develop a manure and fertilizer application plan based on the information above and on-farm logistics, such as manure production, storage, and inventories.
7. Generate reports to guide on-farm implementation.

The NYS NRCS, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have provided funding for Cropware. Over 250 copies of Cropware are registered and the program is being used on over 500 farms across NYS. Cropware is developed and supported through the Nutrient Management Spear Program (NMSP) at Cornell University (<http://nmssp.css.cornell.edu>).

Thanks to the NYS NRCS, Cropware version 2 is available free of charge via:

- Direct internet download from the NMSP web site (<http://nmssp.css.cornell.edu>). The Cropware file is ~40 MB in size, so a fast internet connection is necessary (e.g. cable modem, T1, DSL, etc.).

or

- On CD, by contacting Caroline Rasmussen: cnr2@cornell.edu or (607) 255-2875.

For interest in Cropware support, training, and/or future development directions, contact:

- Greg Albrecht: glal@cornell.edu or (607) 255-1723.

or

- Caroline Rasmussen: cnr2@cornell.edu or (607) 255-2875.



Nutrient Management Spear Program

<http://nmssp.css.cornell.edu>

A collaboration among the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and PRO-DAIRY



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Cornell Cropware 2.0 Set-up Instructions

Installing Cropware 2.0:

- Back up all farm data files created with Cropware version 1; archiving files regularly is an important standard practice regardless of version or software.
- Uninstall Cropware version 1 by clicking on the Windows “Start” button, “Programs”, “Cropware”, and choose “Uninstall Cropware”. Version 1 and version 2 can not be on the same computer at the same time.
 - NOTE: if you are currently using Cropware version 2.0.X and would like to update to 2.0.X+1, click on the Windows “Start” button, “Programs”, “Cornell University”, “Cropware” and choose “Uninstall Cropware”.
- If installing from the CD, choose “Software on this CD” from the self-start menu, then “Install Cornell Cropware”, and follow the directions. If you downloaded Cropware from the Nutrient Management Spear Program web site (<http://nmssp.css.cornell.edu>), then unzip the file and double click on the Cropware setup file to install.
- Once installed, head to the Windows “Start” button and “Programs” to open Cropware. Once in “Programs”, Cropware is within the “Cornell University” folder.

Registering Cropware 2.0:

To aid in supporting Cropware, the Nutrient Management Spear Program at Cornell (<http://nmssp.css.cornell.edu>) requests that you register the software with us. The contact information will only be used for support purposes.

- Upon opening Cropware, you will be taken directly to the registration screen.
- Once you have entered your contact information on the registration screen, click on the “Copy Data to Clipboard” button.
- Paste (Ctrl-V) this information into a document or e-mail and send it to:

Caroline Rasmussen
707 Bradfield Hall
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York, 14853

E-Mail: cnr2@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-2875

- Once you have received your Registration Number, enter it in the appropriate box and click the “Complete Registration” button. This will complete the registration process and this screen will not appear after you finish registering the software.

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Using Cropware:

➤ **If starting a new plan in Cropware:**

1. Open Cropware,
2. Click on the “File” drop-down menu,
3. Select “New Plan”,
4. Choose the a folder on your computer for saving the plan,
5. Name the plan,
6. Click “Save”, and
7. Begin entering information about the farm and developing the nutrient management plan.

➤ **If converting an existing Cropware version 1 file to the version 2 format:**

To use Cropware version 2, you will need to convert your current version 1 files (i.e. “.cpw” files) to the version 2 format (i.e. “.mdb” files) through the following steps:

1. Within Cropware version 2, click the “Tools” dropdown menu.
2. From the dropdown menu choose “Convert version 1.0 Plan Files to Current Version”. You will see a message allowing you to save the current file.
3. Choose the version 1 file to convert. If preferred, the new file name can be the same file name as the old file because Cropware will append the file extension “.mdb” to the new version 2 file and thereby not overwrite the original file. You can now begin using the converted plan file.
4. Notes:
 - a. The original Cropware version 1 files (“.cpw” file) themselves will not be altered on your computer,
 - b. Version 2 files cannot be converted back to the version 1 file format,
 - c. Version 2 files will be larger in size than the version 1 files, and
 - d. It is not necessary to have Microsoft Access installed on your computer to run Cropware version 2.

➤ **If continuing work on an existing Cropware version 2 file:**

1. Open Cropware and
2. If the file you’re interested in doesn’t automatically load into Cropware, then click the “File” drop-down menu, select “Load Plan”, and choose the plan to open.

➤ **For more information, access the Cropware Help file:**

1. Open Cropware,
2. Click on the “Help” drop-down menu, and
3. Choose “Contents and Index”.