

Delaware Nutrient Management  
Program

**DELAWARE CONSERVATION  
PRACTICE STANDARD**

**PHOSPHORUS SATURATION  
RATIO**

(Reported by No.)

The Phosphorus Saturation Ratio is to be used as a supplement to the Phosphorus Site Index. Additionally, Phosphorus Site Index assessments and Phosphorus Saturation Ratio tests should be conducted on all fields, not just those fields with high soil test P values.

**CRITERIA**

Soils should be tested every three years to monitor increases or declines in soil phosphorus.

**REFERENCES**

A description of the Phosphorus Saturation Ratio can be viewed at:  
[http://ag.udel.edu/other\\_websites/DSTP/forms/Croprecs/soiltestnotes/stn18.PDF](http://ag.udel.edu/other_websites/DSTP/forms/Croprecs/soiltestnotes/stn18.PDF)

**DEFINITION**

The percentage of the amount of phosphorus present in a soil relative to the phosphorus retention capacity of that soil.

**PURPOSE**

This practice may be applied for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Limit phosphorus loss.
2. Avoid oversaturation of phosphorus in soil.
3. Supplement Phosphorus Site Index.
4. Protect water quality.
5. Estimate the relative risk of phosphorus loss from an agricultural field.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE  
APPLIES**

This practice applies where:

1. A Phosphorus Site Index exists.