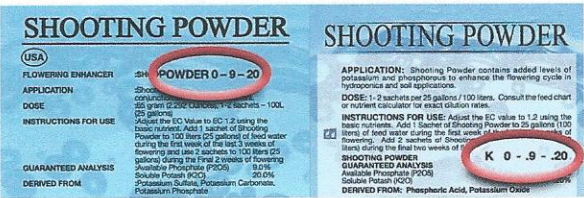


NEW LABEL

A Note about N-P-K and fertilizer labels: In the California Food and Agriculture Code paragraph 14536, “Guaranteed Analysis” is defined as “the minimum percentage of primary or secondary plant nutrients... claimed”. It is meant to ensure that the consumer is getting what they pay for. This means that the fertilizer can contain more, but not less, than what the label claims.



We received notification from the CDFA, that some products had been tested and were not found to meet the labels’ claims of “guaranteed analysis”. These products were placed on quarantine and we were ordered to stop sales. In our investigation into why this happened, we discovered that in the US, N-P-K is tested using the standards of the AFPC (Association of Fertilizer Phosphate Chemists) and not the AOAC as it is in Europe.

We quickly had our products tested using the AFPC standards by Thornton Labs and created new labels.

See the NPK analysis of
House & Garden Nutrients Here

Again, during this time we had never changed the formulations of any of the products. The only thing that changed was the labels.

Unfortunately, a few months after distributing these new labels, we received another violation from CDFA. Again, CDFA’s testing showed results inconsistent with that of Thornton Labs, SGS and House & Garden.

Frustrated, we discussed our options. We knew that the N-P-K Guaranteed Analysis refers to the minimum percentage of nutrients, so we decided to “under-claim” the N-P-K to avoid further violations. In order to maintain the ratio of nutrients, we reduced the label claim to one-tenth of what our testing had shown. Thus, the Aqua Flakes A label claim of N-P-K is now **0.3 – 0 – 0.3**, while testing had shown it to be **3.37 – 0 – 3.4**.

(See Thornton Labs Test Results).

House & Garden USA understands that these changes have been confusing to our customers. Unfortunately since we fall into the Food and Agriculture category we have had a few setbacks in dealing with the regulatory powers. Now we are back on track and committed as always to producing the highest quality plant nutrients available. In an effort to provide transparency to the community we will be publishing our test results on our website.

* At one time we requested a small amount of macro nutrients be added to the additives so they could be registered as a fertilizer with the different State Agriculture Departments*

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