

# Digestate Information Sheets No.5 – Total Nutrient Content Liquid Digestate

Liquid Digestate is available in 2 main forms either whole liquid Digestate or separated liquid Digestate and nutrient content can be variable. Full details of nutrient content for a standard range of Digestates can be found in [Technical Note \(TN699\) – Agricultural use of biosolids, composts, anaerobic digestates and other industrial organic fertilisers](#) (). Table 1 below provides an extract of the nutrient values from Technical Note (TN699) with a comparison with liquid farm manures using data taken from [Technical Note \(TN650\) – Optimising the application of bulky organic fertilisers](#).

Table 1 Standard nutrients of liquid Digestate from technical notes TN699 and TN650

Liquid Organic fertilisers	Dry matter (%)	kg/m <sup>3</sup> (liquids/slurries)					
		Total N	Readily Available N	Total P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Total K <sub>2</sub> O	Total SO <sub>3</sub>	Total MgO
Food-based digestate, whole	4.1	4.8	3.8	1.1	2.4	0.7	0.2
Food-based digestate, seperated liquor	3.8	4.5	4.0	1.0	2.8	1.0	0.2
Farm-based digestate, whole	5.5	3.6	2.8	1.7	4.4	0.8	0.6
Farm-based digestate, seperated liquor	3.0	1.9	1.7	0.6	2.5	0.1	0.4
Cattle slurry	6.0	2.6	1.2	1.2	3.2	0.7	0.6
Pig slurry	4.0	3.6	2.5	1.8	2.4	1.0	0.7

In addition to the standard values from the technical notes Table 2 provides values that have been taken from individual Digestate analyses that have been collected recently.

Table 2 Nutrients from analyses of liquid digestate

Organic fertilisers	Dry matter (%)	kg/m <sup>3</sup> (liquids/slurries)					
		Total N	Readily Available N	Total P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Total K <sub>2</sub> O	Total SO <sub>3</sub>	Total MgO
Distillery based digestate 1 (whole)	7.2	7.8	3.8	3.9	2.3	1.5	0.9
Distillery based digestate 1 (Separated liquid)	4.6	6.8	3.8	3.6	3.3		
Distillery based digestate 2 (whole)	5.6	5.9	3.1	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.3
Industrial digestate (whole)	4.9	5.4	2.8	2.0	5.0	0.8	0.6
Farm-based digestate (whole)	4.9	3.9	0.9	1.7	5.0	0.9	0.5