

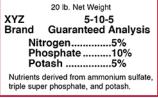
# Fertilizing your Garden

If you're not fertilizing, you aren't getting the lush lawn, beautiful flowers, or bountiful fruits and vegetables that you should. Even if you start with great garden soil, nutrients are lost or used up over time, so the soil ends up lacking fertility. By fertilizing, you replenish lost nutrients and ensure that plants always have the food they need to flourish.

# What Nutrients Do Fertilizers Provide?

**Macronutrients** in fertilizer are elements that plants need in relatively large amounts. They are the three numbers, sometimes called NPK, you'll see on fertilizer labels, indicating the percent by weight of each macronutrient.

1. **Nitrogen** (N, the first number) is an important component of most plant tissues and is essential for forming amino acids and chlorophyll.



- Adequate nitrogen allows a plant to produce healthy, green growth. Lack of nitrogen results in slow, stunted growth and pale, yellowing foliage (chlorosis).
- Phosphorus (P, the second number) is essential for successful root formation and boosts flower and fruit production. It's important to use a high phosphorus fertilizer (*Master Start* or *Sure Start*) in the soil at planting time so it will be available for roots.
- 3. **Potassium** (K, the third number) improves overall vigor of the plant, provides disease resistance, and helps with cold and heat tolerance. It also improves quality and sweetness of fruit.

**Micronutrients** are required in smaller amounts but are also important for plant health. They include iron, sulfur, magnesium, calcium, and manganese.

## What kind of fertilizer should I use?

Fertilizer choices are nearly endless, and everyone will have their personal favorites. Each has advantages.

## Organic – Feeds the soil

- Improves soil every time you use
- Made from natural materials
- May increase nutrient value of fruits and vegetables

## Traditional

- Works fast
- Contains some important nutrients, such as iron and magnesium, that can't be used in organic fertilizers
- Generally costs less than organic options
- Works better than organics in cold weather

#### Granules

- Easy to apply, but need to be watered in to work
- Nutrient-dense, so need to be applied less frequently than liquids

#### Wettable powders or Liquid

- Easiest form to use in containers, but must be used often (every week or two) to provide enough nutrients
- Applied in diluted form, so don't need to be watered in

Whatever fertilizer you use, try to apply regularly, and don't use more than recommended; Excess will be wasted and may cause environmental harm. Our fertilizer guide will help you plan what to have on hand and when to use it. We've recommended our most popular fertilizers, but feel free to substitute other fertilizers if you prefer.

	Products	When to Use
Annuals		
	Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food	Use monthly.
Devenuial	E.B. Stone Organics Rose & Flower Food	
Perenniais	s and Flowering Shrubs	Apply monthly during growing concern March
	<ul> <li>Master Nursery Rose &amp; Flower Food</li> <li>E.B. Stone Organics Rose &amp; Flower Food</li> </ul>	Apply monthly during growing season, March through October.
Vegetable	-	
	Master Nursery Tomato & Vegetable Food	Use at planting time and monthly thereafter.
	<ul> <li>E.B. Stone Organics Tomato &amp; Vegetable Food</li> <li>Dr. Earth Liquid Tomato &amp; Vegetable Fertilizer</li> </ul>	
Troos & Fr	oliage Shrubs	
	Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer	Use monthly during growing season, March -
	E.B. Stone Organics All-Purpose Plant Food	October.
Deciduous	s Fruit Trees	
	Master Nursery Fruit Tree & Vine Food     Section 2 Structure	Apply 3 times yearly: In spring when leaves emerge
	E.B. Stone Organics Citrus & Fruit Tree Food     Master Bloom 0-10-10	after fruit set; and right after harvest. Apply as a supplemental feeding starting when
	<ul> <li>E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom 0-10-10</li> </ul>	growth begins. Repeat monthly until harvest.
Citrus Tre	es	
	Master Nursery Citrus Food	Apply 4 times yearly: February, April, June, &
	E.B. Stone Organics Citrus Food     Iron Plus	August. Can be applied monthly at half label rate. Apply 1-2 times yearly to treat or prevent yellowing
		leaves due to iron or magnesium deficiency.
	Master Bloom 0-10-10	Use monthly in fall and winter to sweeten fruit.
Deeee	E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom 0-10-10	
Roses Monthly	Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food	Apply when growth starts in spring and repeat
traditional		monthly through September.
2X yearly	E.B. Stone Organics Rose & Flower Food	Apply when growth begins in spring and again in
organic 2X yearly	Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer	mid-June. Optional third application mid-August. Apply once in February or March and one more time
traditional	Bone Meal	in July or August. See our Rose Feeding Recipes
	FST Magnesium sulfate	for quantities.
Spring	E.B. Stone Organics Alfalfa Meal	Add to any fertilizer program with the first spring
supplement		feeding. Promotes growth of productive new canes.
Azaleas, R	<ul> <li>Master Nursery Camellias</li> <li>Master Nursery Camellia, Gardenia, &amp;</li> </ul>	Apply 2 times yearly starting after bloom and
	Master Nursery Camenia, Gardenia, &     Rhododendron Food	Apply 3 times yearly, starting after bloom and repeating every 6-8 weeks.
	• E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia	
	Food     Master Bloom 0-10-10	Apply monthly from October through the bloom
	E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom 0-10-10	period
Hydrange		
	<b>TrueBlue Aluminum Sulfate</b> – use as a supplement to regular fertilizer to keep flowers blue.	Apply between late fall and spring. Up to 4 applications may be needed for deepest blue.
Succulent	<b>3</b> 1	applications may be needed for deepest blue.
	Maxsea (dilute to half strength)	Feed monthly March-May when most succulents are
	Cactus Juice	actively growing. Feed once more in September. Avoid feeding during hot weather and late fall-winter
Lawns		A start recard during not weather and late fair write
_417113	Master Green Lawn Food	Four applications yearly of <b>Master Green</b> or
	E.B. Stone Organics Nature's Green Lawn Food	Nature's Green usually keep lawns green and
	Master Nursery Fall & Winter Feed for Lawns	healthy. Feed in spring, summer, fall, and winter. For best results switch to <b>Fall and Winter Feed</b> for
	Master Nursery Fair & Winter Feed for Lawis	your winter feeding. <i>Fall &amp; Winter Feed</i> contains a nitrogen source that works well in cold weather.
California	Native Plants	
	California natives prefer not to be fertilized, but they do like	to be mulched! We recommend worm castings or
	Bumper Crop.	-