



Fertilization Guide

Fertilizer can improve soil, increase plant vigor, induce greener leaves, promote blooming and even strengthen a plant's resistance to certain insects and diseases. Too much fertilizer, however, can be damaging. Always follow a product's label directions; this is one case where more is not better. The following guidelines will help you select the correct fertilizer for your needs.

- For general plant maintenance, a balanced formulation, such as 10-10-10, is recommended. (The formula numbers found on fertilizers refer to the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium contained in the product, in that order.)
- Some broadleaf evergreens, such as rhododendron and boxwood, benefit from a more acidic soil. Holly-tone, a product available in our retail office, is ideal for such acid loving plants.
- Flowering annuals will bloom more prolifically with the use of a time-release, high phosphorous fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro Shake 'n Feed Bloom Booster flower food.
- Spring blooming bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus benefit from a long-lasting, slow-release fertilizer such as Bulb-Tone.
- Roses will produce more plentiful and beautiful blooms with the use of a long-lasting natural fertilizer such as Rose-tone.

Spring is the best time to apply fertilizer when plants are actively growing. Application in the fall is not recommended as it encourages new growth just before winter, often resulting in frost damage to these new tips.