



16622 Twin Lakes Avenue, Arlington, WA 98223 • www.theplantfarm.com • 360-652-3351

Guide to Our "House Brand" Fertilizers

Whether it's growing in our fields, sitting in a plastic pot waiting to be purchased, or planted in your garden, a plant needs a steady supply of nutrients to prosper. Many of these nutrients are available in soil, water and air, but as gardeners we need to help our plants out. Our "house brand" fertilizers will help you help your plants by providing nutrients they need to produce gorgeous, healthy foliage and flowers.

Plants acquire most of the nutrients they use through their roots, below the soil's surface. Without sufficient nutrients in the soil, plants will not grow properly. The most vital nutrients for plant growth are also called *major* or *macronutrients*: **Nitrogen (N)**, **phosphorus (P)**, **potassium (K)**, **calcium (Ca)**, **magnesium (Mg)** and **sulfur (S)**. The three primary nutrients are N, P & K, but plants also need moderate amounts of Ca, Mg and S.

Transplant Food (6-4-3)

Available in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 2 lb., 5 lb., 10 lb. and 20 lb. containers.

We recommend this gentle-but-effective fertilizer to help your get ALL of your new (or newly moved) plants off to a good start in your gardens or planters. It contains some quick-release fertilizer for a speedy feed, plus some slower-release fertilizer to meet the plant's needs for the first few months as it becomes established, all without risk of fertilizer burn.

After digging your planting hole, simply mix the recommended amount of transplant food into the removed soil, place the plant in the planting hole, and replace the soil around the plant's root ball.

Use when:

- Transplanting new plants into the garden, including trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables
- Moving a plant from one spot to another
- Fertilizing younger, newer plants

Summer Liquid Feed (20-10-20)

Available in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 1.75 lb., 5 lb., 8 lb. and 16 lb. containers.

This is what we use every day in our greenhouses to keep our annuals and hanging baskets looking great. This water-soluble fertilizer quickly delivers nutrients to the plant's root zone, but that's not the only reason we use it and recommend it. Through trial and error, we learned that in cool marine climates like ours, a higher-nitrogen formula increases flower bud production (NOT phosphorus, as horticultural wisdom usually advises). So we switched formulas, and have never gone back!

To keep your hanging baskets and container gardens looking great, mix **1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons of fertilizer per gallon of water** to make the liquid feed, then use **every other watering** (or, for impatiens, every third watering). Use for:

- Bedding plants
- Hanging baskets
- Flowers
- Vegetables (as a boost)
- House plants

Continued...

All-Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer (21-5-6)

Available in ¼ lb., 2 lb., 5 lb., 7 lb. and 16 lb. containers.

This is the fertilizer we use in our growing fields and on our container-grown trees and shrubs. This controlled-release fertilizer's special features include important micronutrients, as well as quick-release (the gray particles) AND slow-release (the green particles) forms of nitrogen (to provide both quick greening and 4-6 months of sustained feeding). Excellent for evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, including lilacs, rhododendrons and azaleas.

For each foot of plant height or width (whichever is greater), apply **2 tablespoons** to the soil surface in **early spring to summer** (January 1-June 30).

Did you miss your spring feeding? You can apply our Perennial Rose & Flower Food (see below) in July or August then get back on track the following spring. *Autumn already?* See below for our fall fertilizer.

Perennial, Rose & Flower Food 15-15-10 with Fish Meal

Available in 2 lb., 5 lb., 8 lb. and 18 lb. containers

A longtime Rosarian and rose show judge created this blend specifically for our maritime climate. Roses and flowering perennials need a lot of food quickly so they have the energy to become big, bushy plants that are loaded with flowers. The fish meal stimulates the growth of beneficial microbes (microscopic little critters that improve soil health and help break down nutrients so they are more available to the plant).

When new growth begins in early spring on established plants (around March 1) begin applying monthly, stopping by August 1. Apply ¼ cup per plant for perennials, up to 1 cup per plant for roses 2' tall or larger. Not for use on container plants (because of the fish meal). Do NOT use in the planting hole; use only as a top dressing.

Fall & Winter Ornamental Food (10-20-20)

Coming in fall of 2003!

Use this fertilizer in fall on all your trees and shrubs to help them get ready for winter. It contains slow-release nitrogen that won't encourage the kind of rapid, stretchy growth that can be damaged by cold, frosty weather. It also contains enough phosphorous to continuously stimulate root growth until spring, when top growth begins again. The ample potassium helps strengthen the plant and protect it against disease, while the calcium supports cell wall strength.

Time and rate of application TBD.

Turf Starter (15-5-10)

Available in 50 lb. bags

Tender young grass seedlings need a fertilizer that's strong enough to get them growing, but not so strong that they get burned. We've found the perfect formula, with slow-release nitrogen that provides 2-3 months of continuous feeding as the grass becomes established, plus just the right amount of phosphorous to stimulate root development (any more would be overkill, since soils in our area don't suffer phosphorous deficiencies), and calcium for turf strength.

Apply 4 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square feet of lawn when you apply your grass seed.

Also works great as a boost for existing lawns!

What Fertilizer Should I Use?

First, answer this question: Is your plant new or established? For new plants, **ALWAYS use our Transplant Food**. For established plants (those that have been in the landscape for three months or more), follow these guidelines:

Annuals

- The Plant Farm's Summer Liquid Feed
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Bulbs

- All Organic Lawn • Garden • Turf fertilizer 9-3-4
- The Plant Farm's Summer Liquid Feed
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Conifers

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer

Ground covers

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Hedging plants

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer

Japanese maples

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer at $\frac{1}{2}$ the labeled rate
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Lawns

- UHS Summer Green 24-4-12
- UHS Moss control with lime 6-0-0
- UHS Triamine Weed and Feed 25-3-3
- All Organic Lawn • Garden • Turf fertilizer 9-3-4
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Ornamental grasses

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer
- The Plant Farm's Summer Liquid Feed
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Continued...

Perennials

- The Plant farm's Perennial, Rose and Flower Food
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Rhododendrons/Azaleas

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer

Roses (planted in the ground)

- The Plant Farm's Perennial, Rose & Flower Food
(use a *scant* $\frac{1}{4}$ cup on roses planted in containers)
- Calpril lime should also be used on roses twice a year*

Trees, flowering

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Trees, fruit

- All Organic Lawn • Garden • Turf fertilizer 9-3-4
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Trees, shade

- The Plant Farm's All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Vegetables

- All Organic Lawn • Garden • Turf fertilizer 9-3-4
- Calpril lime to aid in uptake of nutrients*

Do you prefer a fertilizer that is certified organic?

Try All Organic Lawn • Garden • Turf fertilizer 9-3-4. Just be aware that you won't get results quickly from this, or *any* organic fertilizer. Why? Because it takes weeks longer for the tiny critters (microbes) in the soil to break down the natural ingredients in the organic fertilizers to a point where the plants can make use of them. So you may want to also feed with Summer Liquid Feed to give your plants a 'kick-start' while you wait for the organics to break down.

*Why add Lime?

Because in the rainy maritime Northwest, the pH of our soil is almost always on the acidic side.

Most plants (with the exception of acid-lovers like Rhododendrons, Azaleas, blueberries and a few others) prefer a more neutral soil. Adding Calpril to the soil brings it closer to a neutral pH and adds calcium to the soil, increasing the efficiency or availability of vital nutrients, while reducing excessive amounts of other minerals. Calpril is made of limestone crushed to a very fine powder, then formed into round "prills." These prills make the limestone easier to spread in your garden. Once in contact with moisture, the prills begin to disintegrate, releasing the limestone particles into the soil.

