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Fertilizer Schedule for Garden Plants – Care of House and Garden Plants
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Home and Family Series
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Care of House and Garden Plants

Fertilizer Schedule for Garden Plants

Cooperative Extension Service Michigan State University



- TREES:** - No fertilizer first year. Fertilize only if new growth is less than 8-12" per year.
- Use 5# per 1-inch trunk diameter for trees 3" or over.
- 2# per inch for those under 3" in diameter.
- Put 1/4 cup in 18" holes spaced at 24" intervals under branch spread. Fill holes with sand.
- TURF:** - Use 15# per 1000 sq. ft. applied evenly to dry turf.
- Water in within 30 minutes.
- For Merion make monthly applications.
- Use only 33-0-0 alternate years.
- SHRUBS:** - Use 2-4# per 100 sq. ft. of area under shrub branches.
- ROSES:** - Use one handful in a ring around each plant, and scratch into soil to prevent washing.
- To foliar fertilize in spray solution (for pest control) add 1 level tablespoon of potassium nitrate and 1 level tablespoon of ammonium nitrate to each 8 gallons of spray solution. Apply weekly from early May through October.
- If foliar fertilized, omit mid-summer fertilizer applications to soil.
- ANNUALS:** - Use 2# per 100 sq. ft. worked into soil before planting.
- Repeat and scratch into surface 4 weeks after planting.
- PERENNIALS:** - Use 2# per 100 sq. ft. Scratch into surface.
- HARDY BULBS:** - Spring Bulbs: Use 2# per 100 sq. ft. immediately after flowering.
- Lilies same rate in early May.
- NON-HARDY BULBS:** - Use 2# per 100 sq. ft. before planting.
- VEGETABLES:** - Use 2# per 100 sq. ft. broadcast and worked into soil before planting.
- Side-dress when 3-4" high with 33-0-0 at 1# per 100 sq. ft.
- Scratch into soil surface.

FERTILIZER SCHEDULE FOR GARDEN PLANTS

	Trees	Turf	Shrubs	Roses	Annuals	Perennials	Hardy Bulbs	Non-hardy Bulbs	Vegetables
Fertilizer Analysis	10-6-4	10-6-4 20-10-10 33-0-0	10-10-10	10-10-10	5-10-10 6-12-12	5-10-10 6-12-12	5-10-10 6-12-12	5-10-10 6-12-12	5-20-20
Date									
April 1	late April	do	do or Oct.	do	do before planting	do	do when 1" high or after flowering	do before planting	
May 21							do after flowering	do before planting	
June 21				do	do				
July 4		do							Side-dress with 33-0-0 when 3-4 inches high
July 21				do					
Sept. 1		do							
Late Oct. or early Nov.	do or late April		do or April	do					

Note: Applications should be based on soil test results. The above general recommendations are given for loam soils; heavy clay soils or sandy soils may require different materials, rates, and frequency of application.