



When to fertilize

A little knowledge and planning means a lot less useless fertilizer going into our water system.

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Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall



vegetables

Although spring is the absolute best, you can also add amendments (compost or manure) in winter as well and till into the soil.

Fertilize when soil is being tilled and prepared for planting. Use a ratio of 1 nitrogen-2 phosphorus-2 potassium and apply 20 lbs per 1,000 sq ft. Till into top 6-8 inches of soil.

Although spring is the absolute best, you can also add amendments (compost or manure) in fall as well and till into the soil.



grass

Fertilize November 15-December 7 Use a ratio of 3 nitrogen-1 phosphorus-2 potassium (21-7-14 or 15-5-10) Never use more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft per year.

Fertilize April 15-May 7. Use a ratio of 3 nitrogen-1 phosphorus-2 potassium (21-7-14 or 15-5-10) Never use more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft per year.

Fertilize June 15-30. Use a ratio of 3 nitrogen-1 phosphorus-2 potassium (21-7-14 or 15-5-10) Never use more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft per year.

Fertilize September 1-15. Use a ratio of 3 nitrogen-1 phosphorus-2 potassium (21-7-14 or 15-5-10) Never use more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft per year.



perennials

Apply a ratio of 1 nitrogen-2 phosphorus-2 potassium just before plants begin a new season of growth. Apply 20 lbs per 1,000 sq ft over the root zone. Use shallow cultivation or irrigation.



bulbs

Spring flowers: use five tablespoons of 10-10-10 soluble fertilizer or equivalent when shoots begin to show. Do NOT fertilize after flowering.

Summer and fall flowers: use seven tablespoons of 10-10-10 soluble fertilizer or equivalent monthly from shoot emergence until the plants reach full flower.

Spring flowers: when planting bulbs use five tablespoons of 10-10-10 soluble fertilizer or equivalent.



shrubs

Use nitrogen-rich fertilizer (i.e. 16-8-8, 21-7-14 or 20-10-5) February through May. Fertilize according to the shrub's height or spread. Use .05 to .10 pounds of nitrogen per foot of shrub.

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deciduous trees

Use 2 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 sq ft in when leaves start showing, February through May.

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annuals

Fertilize 1-2 times during growing season. Use higher nitrogen until plants reach full size, then switch to high in phosphorus for increased blooming.

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 Don't overdue it! You want to fertilize when rainfall carries the nutrients to the roots, but if you use too much fertilizer, the rain will just wash it into the rivers, causing damage to wildlife. Err on lighter rather than heavier fertilizer applications.


Puget Sound Starts Here