

Informational Guide

How to properly apply a topdress of granular fertilizer

Brief:

Applying appropriate amounts of fertilizer at proper times leads to beneficial impacts, such as high yields, proper fruit formation and reduction in disease and/or pest pressure

Applying improper fertilizer, too much or too little, or at incorrect times of the year can lead to negative impacts such as low yields, irregular fruit formation, nutrient loss, toxic soils and environmental impacts from excessive nutrient runoff and leaching

A standard method of fertilizing the soil of lawns, gardens and agricultural crops is by spreading dry granular fertilizer onto the top of the ground evenly. This method is known as **broadcasting** or the **topdress** method



General Notes on Nutrition:

- **Right Source:** Match your fertilizer type to your crop needs. There are many types of fertilizers, and you need to ensure a balance supply of essential nutrients. Preferably use control release fertilizers that will last longer and won't burn your crops.
- **Right Time:** Make nutrients available when the crop needs them the most. Most plants require nutrition in the spring and summer, little in the fall and few if any in the winter.
- **Right Rate:** Balance the plants' needs without running short or putting out too much fertilizer. Read and follow the product label for the correct application rate. Houseplants usually require less fertilizer.



Topdressing Tips

- Keep fertilizer 4-6 inches away from the trunk or stem of the plants.
- Measure amount to apply and broadcast evenly. DO NOT CLUMP the fertilizer.
- Water immediately after at the soil level.

Calculating Amount of fertilizer needed

1. Measure the circumference of trunk in inches at approximately three feet of height
2. Divide the circumference by 3.14 to obtain the diameter
3. Multiply the diameter of the trunk by .25
3. The result is the number of pounds to be topdressed around the trunk perimeter.



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