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Fertiliser Suggestion Sheet for Residential Gardens

To best advise a home gardener on which fertiliser and how much is an easy question, but provides for a wide ranging set of answers and suggestions.

The most accurate way is to have a chemical soil analysis done on a say 2 samples of soil. One for the turf, the other one for the garden. This information will provide accurate information as to the balance and availability of nutrients in the soil at that time without any guessing. The average cost per sample is \$ 69.00. If someone can recommend what you require without such an analysis it will only be a "best guess" and possibly experience indicators been the only supporting suggestion.

The following is a general suggestion for some of the organic fertilisers and soil conditioners we promote and sell. Always make sure you cross check any suggestions you are given and ensure the mixtures will not clog the irrigation system, ensure the irrigation filter is in place, make sure the dissolved or liquid fertiliser is free of solids or precipitate.

Improve the Soil Moisture Wetting and Moisture Holding (saving) capacity.

1. Use liquid Organic Soil Wetter to allow the water to penetrate.

Apply every two months for the first 4 months and then every 4 months thereafter. After two years the non wetting sands will improve as the waxy layer surrounding the sand particles are broken down by the soil wetter.

Use a hand held sprayer type dispenser to evenly spread the wetter.

Apply 20mls of wetter per 10m² of garden each time.

2. Use liquid soil moisture saver – Aquaboost

Apply in September, December and February as it lasts only three to four months in the soil and is then biologically broken down in the soil.

Use a hand held sprayer type dispenser to evenly spread the wetter for the first time, and then it can be dosed through the drip fertiliser injection bottle.

Apply 2 litres of mixture (or 500mls concentrate) per 100m² of garden each time.

3. Mix into the soil any compost or organic matter, as much as you like.

Soil Organisms - Feed them up

The soil micro-flora is the most beneficial aspect of a healthy soil. These organisms work on the minerals and nutrients feeding them to the plants roots. The soil organisms also protect the plants roots from infection and pathogenic attack.

In our depleted soils these organisms are in low concentrations. We suggest building up their numbers to create a living soil.

4. Use a mix of Microbes – Garden Microbes Powder.

10gms of powder per 10m² of garden.

Or

Grow your own brew, and mix in say 50gms of microbe powder into a 5 litre bucket of water at room temperature, leave the brew overnight and filter through some stockings/ tights to remove the solids. Then irrigate this brew through the dispenser or fertiliser bottle system.

Apply 200mls liquid per 10m² three times a year - Autumn, Spring and Summer.

5. Feed the Microbes – Use Fish and Kelp Mixture – Eco Vital

The fish and kelp will feed the soil organisms as well the above the microbes you have just spread onto the garden.

Apply 20mls per 10m² of garden through the dispenser or drip system. Beware it is sticky and smelly. So do not inject too much at a time through the dripper system, slowly inject it. This is also the best way to feed the plants, little and often.

Apply with the microbes at the same time, and even mixed together.

6. Feed the plants and Soil Organisms – Liquid Worm Castings

A great feeder and stimulant for the soil and plants. You might have your own worm farm, use the liquid, filter the bits out first, then use it through the drip system or dispenser.

Apply as often and together with the Eco Vital and Microbes.

7. Major Nutrients – N (Nitrogen) P (Phosphorous) and K (Pottasium)

These nutrients are important for all plants, in varying concentrations. Again to recommend any, and in any quantity would wrong. It requires a soil analysis to indicate the deficiencies and excesses, this information then needs to be compared to the plant types nutrient requirements in your garden.

8. Trace Elements – This minor group also play an important part in plant nutrition, but can only be recommended once a soil analysis is carried out.

Remember pre-mix the fertiliser mix with water to make sure it does not make solids that will clog your drip or sprinkler system prior to use through an irrigation system.

You should take advice from us or Water Corporation on back flow prevention devices that may be required for your system