

Payne's Recommends the Following Fertilizers

The recommendations below are for **indoor plants** or plants you grow in pots outside in the summer.

BR-61	9-58-6
Jack's Classic	20-20-20
Jobe's Organic	3-3-3
Yum Yum Mix	2-1-1



The recommendations below are for **outdoor plants** - growing in the ground. It's important to remember that all fertilizers are salts and too much can burn plants. Therefore, we recommend different formulations for different growing conditions.

Gro-Power Flower & Bloom	3-12-12
Gro-Power Liquid	4-8-2
Gro-Power Plus (with soil penetrant)	5-3-1
Gro-Power Regular	5-3-1
Ferti•lome	
Gardener's Special	11-15-11
Yum Yum Mix	2-1-1

If you have any questions, ask our gardening experts for fertilizer advice.



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Horticultural Guide

FERTILIZER

How to Choose the Right Fertilizer

The labels of all commercial fertilizers contain three numbers separated by hyphens, such as **2-1-1** or **14-14-14** or **4-8-3**. These are "**N-P-K**" indicators for Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Potassium, which is represented by the letter K (Kryptonium). These are the elements most required in quantity for plant growth and health.

The numbers represent the percentage of each element the fertilizer makes available to plants. For example, a fertilizer labeled 5-5-5 contains 5% available* nitrogen, which helps plants create rapid growth, 5% available* phosphorus, which stimulates flowering and fruiting, and 5% available* potassium, which is needed for root and stem growth, ('available means that the element is in a form a plant can readily absorb.)

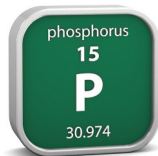


Nitrogen: Key to Healthy Plant Growth



The first number is for the amount of Nitrogen, which is the basic building block of plant proteins and a major ingredient of chlorophyll which, through photo synthesis, produces food for plants and makes them green. Too much nitrogen fertilizer can result in weak, leggy plants with few flowers and fruit but lots of lush, tender foliage, which makes them susceptible to pests and diseases. That's why it is especially important to apply nitrogen fertilizers according to the rates on the package.

Phosphorus: The Plant Energizer

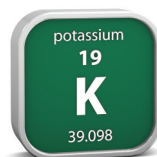


Phosphorus, the second number on the label, helps store and transfer the sun's energy during photosynthesis so it:

- stimulates early plant and root growth
- improves a plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients
- stimulates blooming and the development of fruits and seeds
- strengthens plants against various environmental stresses

Most annual plants and many vegetables require more phosphorus, particularly in the beginning of their growing season. Established plants need less phosphorus. Several good "bloom fertilizers" are formulated with extra high levels of phosphorus.

Potassium: The Immune System Regulator



The third number is for Potassium which is often called the "regulator," because it is involved with more than 60 different plant enzymes that control all aspects of plant growth.

Potassium:

- helps slow down plant diseases
- helps plants build the cellulose (plant fibers) needed for stalk and stem strength
- aids in photosynthesis
- increases root growth
- increases the size and quality of flowers, fruits, grains, and vegetable
- improves drought resistance by reducing water loss from leaves.

New Mexico soils are naturally high in potassium so plants grown in the ground here rarely need additional potassium. However, plants grown in containers filled with prepared potting soil need potassium (as well as nitrogen and phosphorus), because it is not naturally present in commercial potting mixes.



Plants Also Need Micronutrients

N-P-K are not the only nutrients plants need for optimum growth and health. Iron, zinc, copper, magnesium, manganese and many others are needed in small, but essential, quantities. They are called trace minerals or micronutrients, and without them plants can develop trace-mineral-deficiency diseases. Check fertilizer labels for the presence of micronutrients (the best brands will contain them).

A Word About Iron



Southwestern soils are typically alkaline, with a pH greater than 8.0. For high-alkaline soils we recommend annual applications of sulphur which naturally reduces the pH and releases certain micronutrients that are present in the soil but are bound up.

Low levels of iron are indicated when plants develop chlorosis which shows up in plants as yellowed leaves with green veins. Payne's sells several formulas of iron supplements such as Iron Sulfate and Hi Yield Iron Plus. These supplements contain iron and are Payne's preferred. But be sure to follow label directions exactly. It's much better to make several light applications per year than 1-2 heavy applications per year.