

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS-Quick Reference List

Select the low application rate to maintain fertility. Apply the higher rate only for extremely poor soil. Calculate actual need from a soil test. Don't guess. Too much is as harmful as too little.

Nitrogen or N Sources	% Composition	Application rate per 100 sq ft.
Blood meal	12%	From 1 to 4 lb
Fish meal	9-10%	From 2 to 5 lb
Soybean meal	7%	From 4 to 8 lb
Cottonseed meal	6%	From 5 to 10 lb
Fishbone meal	6%	From 2.5 to 10 lb
Alfalfa meal	2-3%	From 5 to 15 lb
Liquid Fish (emulsion or hydrolysate)		Mix according to directions on label

Phosphorus or P sources

Rock phosphate	33%	Up to 10 lb
Bone meal	20%	Up to 5 lb
Fishbone meal (cod)	10%	From 5-10 lb

note that FBM is a
 2-ingredient-in-1 application: N & P are both present.
 Compute application rate according to your need for N.

Potassium or K sources (note: most soils have adequate levels of K; add Ca and microbes to help release it and make it available to plants.)

Granite dust	3-5	From 5 to 15 lb
Greensand	6-7%	Up to 10 lb
Sul-Po-Mag	22%	Up to 6-7 lb Use only if deficient in Mg.
Sulfate of Potash	50%	From 1/2 - 1 lb
Wood ash	varies w. wood	----- Only a light dusting to avoid severe rise in pH
Kelp meal	1.2%	----- Never use more than 1 lb. Choose another K source and just add the tiny amount of kelp meal as a supplemental touch-up.

Other, for general boost in trace elements

Azomite, compost, livestock manure (high in weed seeds), kelp meal (see note above), and various liquid fish and seaweed fertilizers.

Alternatives to purchased organic amendments

Green manures: Grow cover crops like vetches, clovers, buckwheat, annual rye. When 2-5" high, chop and cultivate back into soil. Builds nutrients and organic matter right in place.

Compost: Apply up to 3" deep or 1 cu. yd. per 100 sq. ft. Apply compost every year.

Actively aerated compost tea a recent, exciting, and highly effective way to fertilize, build your soil foodweb, and suppress disease. See www.soilfoodweb.com 5-15 gal/acre.

Manure tea: Not as effective as compost tea, but a good way to make manure spread farther without the weed seed problem of spreading solid manure.

Manures from livestock: Apply about 50 lb or 4 cu feet or 1/2" per 100 sq. ft.