



EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

INFORMATION SHEET FOR FERTILISERS, MANURES AND COMPOSTS

BLOOD FISH AND BONE

This is one of our most popular products. A great all-purpose organic fertiliser, blood fish and bone is ideal for enriching soil, kickstarting new plants and feeding established ones. Applied directly to soil before or after planting, it provides a rich source of all three major nutrients - nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium – to encourage strong root growth and promote heavier cropping.

It is suitable for use around the garden on most flowers and all fruit and vegetables. It can be applied every 4-6 weeks all through the growing season. Gloves are recommended when using this product. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage – 140gm per square metre.

BONEMEAL

Ideal for trees and shrubs, but suitable for use around the garden, bonemeal is organic and provides a rich supply of slow-release phosphorus to promote strong root growth and nitrogen for healthy leaves and stems. Unlike liquid fertilisers, bonemeal releases nutrients slowly, making it ideal for providing long-term nutrition for a wide range of plants.

Apply throughout the growing season, every 4-6 weeks, from February to the end of October. Gloves are recommended when using this product. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage – 140gm per square metre.

CHICKEN MANURE PELLETS

Poultry manure is an effective nonchemical fertilizer. We sell it in dried pelleted form. It is a useful source of nitrogen, essential for green growth, but low in some other

nutrients so supplementation with other fertilizers may be necessary. It should not be used around ericaceous (acid loving) plants. It can be used on all vegetable and fruit crops as a top dressing.

Usage – Flowers, vegetables, soft fruit – 2-3 handfuls (130-210 gms) per square metre at two to three week intervals. Roses – 2-3 handfuls to each plant when planting, one to two handfuls for established plants when the first buds appear, and again for the second blooms. Lawns – 2 handfuls per square metre. For lawns, aerate first and then brush on pellets and water well.

Do not use for two weeks after applying other feeds with nitrogen.

COMPOSTS

We stock a number of general purpose composts which can be used for all gardening activities as follows:-

Durstons is a prime quality compost with essential plant nutrients and wetting agents blended for water absorption, aeration and drainage, ideal for all garden uses all year round.

Levingtons is a multipurpose compost suitable for improving soil texture to help plants develop stronger roots and grow healthily all round the garden. It can be used all year round for all planting needs and feeds for six to eight weeks after planting.

Rosedale is a premier blend of professionally graded peat and bark which provides excellent aeration and moisture retention with an open structure to aid drainage and promote strong root growth. It feeds for up to six weeks, giving plants the best possible start. It is ideal for use in raised beds, borders, containers and potting up young plants.

We also stock **Melcourt peat free compost** which is recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society. We have increased our stock of peat free compost in advance of the requirement for going peat free.

We stock three types of **John Innes Compost**.

John Innes Compost No 1

This is used for pricking out or potting-up young seedlings or rooted cuttings. The compost has a carefully balanced nutrient content to suit most young plants and allow them to grow.

John Innes No 2 Compost

This is used for general potting of most house plants and vegetable plants into medium size pots or boxes. It contains double the amount of nutrients found in John Innes No 1 to suit established plants and is a perfect everyday compost for your garden.

John Innes No 3 Compost

This is a richer mixture for final re-potting of heavy feeding vegetable plants, and for mature foliage plants, also shrubs, outdoor containers and house plants. It is an extra-rich blend of sandy loam, peat and fertiliser ideal for plants that have been well established.

Compost maker is also sold in 3 kg bags, to assist in the rapid acceleration of home compost. Sprinkle 200-250g (about 2 trowels) over each 30cm layer of new material; Water the heap if the weather is dry.

LAWN FERTILISER

We stock fertiliser for autumn or spring/ summer feed. Spring/summer lawn fertilizer, high in nitrogen, is applied in March. Apply 35 to 75 gm per sq metre. Autumn fertilizer, high in iron, hardens the grass for winter and protects against disease. Also apply 35 to 75 gm per square metre It is also a good moss killer. Grass fertiliser is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

We also sell aftercut lawn sand and lawn weed feed and moss control in 3 kg bags. Lawn sand is composed primarily of sand and iron phosphate and used to kill weeds and moss. Aftercut has a triple action in greening and feeding the lawn, as well as killing off the weeds and moss.

Usage – Lawn sand 60 to 70 gm per square metre; feed and aftercut 35 gm per square metre.

GROWBAGS

These can be used for a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, notably tomatoes. We keep a large stock, and they are easy to use. Put your grow bag in its final position and gently roll it to fluff up the compost. Make some cuts in the bottom of the bag to allow excess water to drain out. Cut along the marked lines on the top of the growing bag to position your plants. If you only want to put two plants in each bag, use the two outer-planting positions on the bag.

GROWMORE

Growmore is non organic. However, it provides the three major plant nutrients of nitrogen, potash and phosphates in equal proportions, making it a superb general-purpose feed for use all around the garden, particularly vegetables. Its balance of nutrients ensures even stimulation of growth in all plant parts, meaning lots of fruit and flowers, abundant foliage and a strong root system. Ideal as a base & top dressing. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage -flowers 70gm per square metre; brassicas 200 gm per square metre; potatoes 280 gm per square metre; other vegetables 140 gm per square metre.

Growmore can be applied to the soil surface once a month to keep your plants well fed throughout the growing season. Scatter the above measures onto the soil and lightly fork or hoe in.

LIME

Lime is usually added in winter for annual crops, such as vegetables, just prior to digging, as the lime can take effect over the winter months and will not damage young growth.

Before planting perennial plants like lawns, shrubs, fruit or trees, apply lime if the soil is acid. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

For most gardeners, autumn is a good time to add lime. Working lime into the soil in the autumn gives it several months to dissolve before spring planting. To add lime to the soil, first prepare the bed by tilling or digging to a depth of 8 to 12 inches.

PERLITE

Perlite is a naturally occurring porous mineral. The cavities in perlite help store nutrients and some moisture but drain excess water away from potting soil. It is non-toxic, clean, disease-free, and extremely lightweight and easy to work with.

Perlite is a natural filtration system, allowing excess water to easily drain away while retaining a little moisture and catching nutrients that plants need to grow. It is particularly good for raised beds and containers, but also in the ground as well.

Airflow in the soil is greatly improved in a bed treated with perlite. Because it's a mineral glass and thus harder than the soil around it, it also helps to slow down compaction, and keeps your soil fluffy and lightweight. It is supplied in 750g bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Succulents and other plants sensitive to moist soil benefit from having perlite added to the potting compost. The perlite will trap air in the compost and encourage water to drain through, ensuring the plant's roots will never sit in damp soil. Mix perlite with compost at a ratio of around 1:4. Do this before planting to ensure an even mix.

Perlite can aid water retention in compost, which can help improve the chances of your cuttings taking root. To do this you need a compost that's specifically designed for cuttings (with a finer texture and lower nutrient content than general use multi-purpose compost). Mix in perlite at a ratio of 50:50, fill the pots, water thoroughly and then allow the compost mix to drain for several hours before inserting your cuttings.

Cuttings can also be rooted in perlite on its own. Once roots are well developed, the cutting can be taken out and potted up in compost.

For seed sowing, mix perlite into seed and cuttings compost at a ratio of 50:50 to create a moist environment perfect for delicate seedling roots. A fine layer of perlite is also excellent for covering seed that needs light to germinate because the perlite lets light through whilst still keeping the seed moist and aiding germination.

ROSE FEED

Feeding provides your roses with key nutrients to keep it healthy, allowing it to produce better blooms and resists pests and diseases.

Our granule feed is easy to apply. It is simply sprinkled over the soil. It slowly releases nutrients over time which the rose absorbs through its roots. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage 70 to 140 gm per square metre. Most roses need regular feeding throughout the growing season. For newly planted roses, add plenty of compost to the hole at planting time, and then provide feed about a month later, after they're established. Start feeding older plants in spring when new growth is about 6 inches long. Most will benefit from a second feeding after the first bloom and repeat blooming roses do best with regular feeding every 2-3 weeks until late summer.

If conditions are dry, water your roses before feeding them and then keep them well hydrated afterwards. This helps the plants absorb nutrients better. Stop feeding about 8 weeks before your average frost date to avoid stimulating too much new growth that will be damaged by cold temperatures.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

Sulphate of Ammonia boosts nitrogen levels in vegetable beds, garden borders & lawns. It is ideal for promoting lush healthy leaf growth particularly beneficial for vegetable and salad crops such as brassicas, lettuce, spinach, rhubarb and leek. and best applied during the growing months. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage – 20 – 35 gm per square metre. It can be applied every six weeks from early spring to late autumn.

SULPHATE OF IRON

Iron sulphate is a mix of iron, salt and sulphuric acid and is used to fight against fungal diseases of many garden plants, prevent yellowing of leaves and for pest control. It can also be used for improving lawns by weed and moss removal. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage – 15 to 30 gm per square metre. Sulphate of Iron can be applied every 4-6 weeks during the growing season from March to the end of August.

SULPHATE OF POTASH

Sulphate of potash has a very high potassium content. This makes it ideal for encouraging strong flower and fruit development. It also helps to ripen and strengthen plants ensuring they can defend against pest, disease and weather damage. It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage – 25 to 35 gm per square metre. Sulphate of potash can be raked into the soil or used as top dressing prior to planting or sowing vegetables. It can be used as a top dressing for established plants, sprinkled evenly between the rows once or twice during the growing season.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Superphosphate is simply a highly concentrated form of phosphate. The main nutrients to drive plant growth are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Of these, phosphorus drives flowering and fruiting. Fruiting or blooming plants can be encouraged to produce more of either if given superphosphate.

It is commonly used on vegetables, bulbs and tubers, blooming trees, fruits, roses, and other flowering plants. A long-term study in New Zealand shows that the high dose nutrient actually improves soil by promoting the organic cycle and increasing pasture yields.

It is supplied in 3 kg bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

Usage 25 to 35 gm per square metre. It is recommended that the product is used every four to six weeks during the growing season. In perennials, apply in early spring to jump start healthy plants and get them flowering.

VERMICULITE

Vermiculite is particularly useful for water retention, whereas Perlite is used to aerate the soil.

Because it retains water so well, it can be added to compost or soil for plants that dry out easily. It is particularly good for starting seeds indoors, as they need to be kept consistently moist. It is fine grain so allows the young plants to easily push up through after sprouting. It is also sterile, making it great as a medium for seed starting due to its lack of bacterial or fungal problems.

It is supplied in 750g bags, but other quantities can be made up on request.

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