



FERTILIZING DECIDUOUS AND EVERGREEN PLANTS

FERTILIZATION

Yearly fertilization is appropriate on most soils *if significant growth is desirable*. Mature trees and shrubs will not require fertilizer in most situations and where significant growth is undesirable. If growth is desired, apply spring fertilizer when root growth is active (usually at first signs of plant growth). If more is needed, consider a second application in May or June.

Amounts to use: 2 to 3 pounds 5-10-5 or 1 pound 10-10-10 for 100 square feet of shrubs. Trees up to 3 inches in diameter; 2 pounds 5-10-5 or 1 pound 10-6-4 per inch of trunk diameter at 4 1/2 feet height. Trees over 3 inches in diameter: 5 pounds 5-10-5 or 3 pounds 10-6-4 per inch of trunk diameter at 4 1/2 feet height. Apply fertilizer on the soil surface so that not more than 1 pound of actual nitrogen (as 10 pounds of 10-10-10 or 20 pounds 5-10-5) is spread over 1,000 square feet of soil surface.

Water the fertilizer in on lawn surface. Organic fertilizer may be used in place of inorganic fertilizers. Fertilizers may be applied broadcast or injected into soil at 18 inch intervals, to depth of 8 inches for deciduous plants (to 8 inches for evergreen plants), starting at 2 1/2 feet from trunk. Broadcasting preferable for young plants. Slow-release fertilizers may be advantageous if applied according to manufacturer's recommendations; one spring application is usually adequate for the year.

DECIDUOUS

TIMING

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>TREES</u>	<u>SHRUBS</u>
Fertilize annually* in spring while soil is moist and root growth active (see water below). Fall fertilizer applications by mid-November will likely be taken up by the roots, moved through the plant and stored in the buds ready for first growth in spring.	In non-lawn areas, apply fertilizer any time after leaves first appear, but not later than July 1. In lawn areas, follow Cornell lawn guidelines	Same as for trees
* When growth is desired.		
Water from May 1 to June 30 for maximum growth in spring. Water throughout summer if soils are sandy or dry. Use mulch to conserve water.	Water newly planted trees for several hours once a week, May 1 to June 30, for the first two growing seasons. For good	Water newly planted shrubs for several hours once a week, May 1 to June 30, for the first two growing seasons. For good growth of established shrubs, water

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	<p>growth of established trees, water weekly for several hours from May 1 to June 30.</p>	<p>weekly for several hours from May 1 to June 30.</p>
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EVERGREEN

TIMING

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>NARROW LEAF</u>	<u>BROADLEAF SHRUBS</u>
<p>Fertilize in spring up to July 1. This is the period of active growth (see water below). Fall fertilizer applications by November will likely be taken up by the roots, moved the plant and stored in the buds ready for first growth.</p>	<p>In non-lawn areas, apply fertilizer any time after leaves first appear, but not later than July 1. Another application in November may improve winter color. In lawn areas, follow Cornell lawn guidelines.</p>	<p>At first signs of growth: (1) Apply no more than 1/2 to 1-pound ammonium sulfate to 100 square feet; one month later, apply 1/4 to 1/2 through pound ammonium sulfate to 100 square feet, or spring. (2) Use fertilizer especially prepared for broadleaf evergreen if 1/3 of the nitrogen is in the ammonium form. Use at rates recommended by manufacturer.</p>
<p>Water from May 1 to June 30 for maximum growth in spring, throughout summer if soils are sandy and dry. Use mulch to conserve moisture.</p>	<p>Water newly planted evergreens for several hours once a week May 1 to June 30 for the first two growing seasons. For good growth of established evergreens, water weekly for several hours from May 1 to June 30. In late November, give one heavy watering</p>	<p>Same as for narrow leaf evergreen shrubs.</p>