

# Spring Fertilizing

How and when to fertilize trees, shrubs and perennials!



Fertilizing your trees, shrubs and perennials is an important step in ensuring optimum growth of your plants. While you may think all fertilizers are the same, using the correct fertilizer at the correct amount will greatly improve your plant's health, flower response and overwintering health.

## Perennial Fertilizing

Spring is the optimum time for fertilizing all plants. Perennials are best fertilized after the plants have broken dormancy and are showing growth. Typically, the best time to apply fertilizer is mid-May. While there are several types of fertilizers that can be used, we suggest using only granular fertilizer. Granular fertilizers tend to have a slower release of nutrients to feed your plants for a longer period. Fertilome Start and Grow Premium Food as well as Sustane Landscape and Garden Fertilizer, are two fertilizers that we use in our own gardens to fertilize our perennials. Read the label for the correct rate for your plants, as over-fertilizing can create rapid leggy growth as well as reduced flowering. When applying fertilizer, sprinkle the fertilizer around the entire root zone of your plant, being careful to not have it touch the stem or leaves. Gently work it into the top couple of inches of soil and water in. A second application may be made in mid-July if needed. Otherwise, plan on applying winterizer fertilizer in October.



## Trees and Shrubs

As with perennials, shrubs and trees are fertilized in the spring. The best optimum time to fertilize is just before leaves are starting to break bud to shortly after. Typically, fertilizing is done before late May. If the plants are not stressed, a second application can be made in mid to late July. However, we don't necessarily suggest that in our area. Our favorite fertilizer for trees and shrubs is Fertilome Tree and Shrub Food. This granular fertilizer is a general slow-release fertilizer. If your plant is deficient in specific nutrients, a different fertilizer may be needed to correct the deficiency. Follow the table on the back of the package to ensure the correct amount of product is being applied. When fertilizing shrubs, evenly distribute fertilizer around the root zone evenly. However, when fertilizing trees, evenly distribute fertilizer around the drip line of the tree to reach the root ends. Water the fertilizer in after application. Apply a winterizer fertilizer in October.

