

Fertilizers: Liquid or Dry Form

Liquid organic garden fertilizers (short-term quick fix) are usually sprayed (on “fine” or “mist” sprayer settings) once or twice per month. Apply at the base of the plant above its roots along with both sides of its leaves (called “organic foliar feeding”) until the leaves are covered. Outside of the once or twice per month guidelines, consider applying liquid organic garden fertilizers...

- Just after you transplant a seedling or mature plant
- During droughts or high/low temperatures
- When plants begin to bear fruit for the first time
- Side-Dressing (To side-dress means to apply a dry fertilizer on the ground outside of the plant’s leaf line. When using this technique, be sure to apply the dry fertilizer well outside the plant’s leaf line, slightly turn fertilizer into the soil after applying (about an inch/2.5 cm or so) and closely follow the label’s instructions and recommended amounts).

Dry organic garden fertilizers (longer term slow-acting fix) should be used much less frequently than liquid organic fertilizers. Apply them once or twice throughout the growing season to strengthen your crops or give them an extra boost. After applying, gently rake them into the top few inches (8 cm) of soil and water the area lightly.

If you apply dry fertilizer more than once throughout the season, try to space out the timing. The following are times when you may want to consider adding dry organic fertilizer...

- When planting, add small amount to holes
- Add as side-dressing any time during growing season
- Broadcast over entire bed when plants begin to bear fruit for the first time