

What do I use it for?

We are often asked what many of the products available in the shop can/should be used for and when. So please find below some suggestions based on our experiences on our plots.

Ammonia Sulphate

Sulphate of Ammonia has very high nitrogen content. This makes it ideal for encouraging strong leaf and stem development. Nitrogen also helps improve leaf colour, promotes lush, green, leafy vegetables and counteracts leaf-yellowing.

When to use

Apply every 4-6 weeks during the growing season from March to the end of August. For best results, the granules should be worked into the soil. During dry weather water well before and after application – handy application tip – one medium sized handful of sulphate of ammonia is approximately 35 grams.

How to use

Vegetables - Apply 35 g per sq. m as a top dressing to the soil surface and work in well

Trees shrubs and flowers – fork 35g per sq. m around established plants, gently fork into the soil surface without disturbing the roots, take care that the granules do not touch the leaves or stems. Water in well after application.

Blood Fish and Bone

A very traditional general-purpose fertiliser with balanced percentages of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium that make it ideal for use all around the garden encouraging flowering and increasing crop yields

When to use

Use in soil preparation then apply it every six weeks throughout the growing season (March – August) to keep plants in good health.

How to use

When preparing the soil for planting spread Fish Blood and Bone at the rate of 70g per sq. m. FB&B is supplied as a coarse powder and as such acts as a slow release fertiliser. Re-apply every four to six weeks keeping off leaves to prevent scorching, water well after adding to the soil.

Bone Meal

Bone meal fertiliser is often used by organic gardeners to add phosphorus to their soil. It is a slow release fertiliser that will help promote root growth and flowering plants to produce bigger more plentiful flowers, as such it is essential for many allotment crops at the start of their growth.

When to use

Similar to blood fish and bone during soil preparation and soon after planting, does not contain as many nutrients as blood fish and bone so not as useful to the plant after root and bud formation.

How to use

When preparing the soil for planting spread Fish Blood and Bone at the rate of 70g per sq. m. FB&B is supplied as a coarse powder and as such acts as a slow release fertiliser. Re-apply every four to six weeks keeping off leaves to prevent scorching, water well after adding to the soil.

Growmore

A commercially produced general purpose fertiliser that includes nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus the three most important elements in a fertiliser.

How to use

Apply in spring, hoe and water into the soil, do not let the granules touch plant leaves as it can cause "burning".

Lime

Test your soil before applying lime. Lime is usually applied 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

When to use

After testing your soil if the value is 7 or above it is alkaline and you do not need lime, if it is 6.5 or below and you do not wish to grow acid-loving plants you should add lime, but do your own research about quantity and area to be covered.

Lime is also added to soil if brassicas get club root.

Perlite, Potting Grit and Vermiculite

Potting grit: can be used to add extra drainage for plants that require well drained roots.

Perlite: can be mixed into potting compost to absorb and retain water for seedling/plant roots.

Vermiculite: germinate seeds using the smallest size of vermiculite as a growing medium and the largest size for mixing into compost for improved soil aeration.

Potato Fertiliser

A fertiliser that has been specially formulated for potatoes, use at planting and during the growing season for heavy healthy crops.

Poultry Manure

Chicken manure that has been dried and pelleted for horticultural use, ideal for soil improvement, planting and feeding of established plants.

When to use

A small handful mixed into the soil at planting and during the growing season.

Potassium (potash)

Used to increase yields of crops, use sparingly as a build-up in the soil can damage plants as well.

When to use

Hoe into the soil with manure or organic matter that helps to release the potassium. Usually this is included, in the correct proportions, in a general-purpose fertiliser such as Growmore.