

FERTILIZING THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

RICH SOIL is the best food for vegetable crops. Fertilizers can give crops a boost but will not replace basic soil care.

NITROGEN is the nutrient needed in largest quantities by plants, the one most often limiting plant growth and the one most frequently applied as fertilizer. Nitrogen needs are higher in raised beds because of plant density.

NITROGEN DEFICIENCY. Plant leaves are uniform yellowish-green. Signs are more pronounced in older leaves. New leaves are small, thin with fewer leaflets. Shoots are short, small in diameter. Plant growth is slow, stunted.

NITROGEN needs vary by plants. Grouping crops according to their fertilizer requirements make application easier.

<u>Heavy Feeders</u>	<u>Light Feeders</u>	<u>Add Nitrogen to Soil</u>
Asparagus	Carrot	Bean, snap*
Beet	Garlic	Pea
Broccoli	Leek	
Brussels Sprouts	Mustard Greens	
Cabbage	Onion	
Cauliflower	Parsnip Pepper*	
Collards	Potato Shallot	
Cucumber*	Swiss Chard	
Eggplant*	Turnip	
Endive		
Kale		
Kohlrabi		
Lettuce		
Parsley		
Radish		
Rhubarb		
Spinach Squash, summer*		
Squash, winter*		
Tomato*		

* These plants do not grow in Grand County without special treatment. Check with your Master Gardeners for more information. *

WHEN AND HOW TO FEED:

Feed As You Plant

- Broadcast and work in dry fertilizers into top 1-2 inches of soil just before planting.
- Read product labels to compute proper amount to apply.
- Do not place fertilizers in seed rows or root injury may occur.

Use Starter Fertilizers for Transplants

- Use water-soluble fertilizers (MiracleGro, Peters, Schultz, organics, etc).
- Water foliage and soil of newly planted transplants.
- Signals hardened-off transplants to resume growth.
- Promotes early growth.

Give Booster Feedings

- Timing and frequency throughout the season is crop-specific.
- Use dry fertilizers to side-dress row crops.
 - Work into top 1 inch of soil next to, but not touching, plants.
- Use liquid fertilizers (water-soluble) to feed block and/or row crops.
 - Wet leaves and soil.