

Apply Commercial Fertilizer Away From Plant

Same Applies To Tree Food

Nutrient Is Obtained From Root Feeders in This Application

"Many folks think you have to put commercial fertilizer right on the plant—but that's not so. Plants have to breathe and the thing to do is to apply the fertilizer several inches or more from the plants. Or in other words so the feeders will get it." That's the way H. G. King, manager of the Standard Feed company, sums up advice on using fertilizer for the small garden.

In fertilizing young plants, place the feed around it at a distance of three or more inches.

About Feeding Trees

For feeding trees, measure the diameter of the tree four feet above the ground to determine the required amount of plant food, and allow three pounds of food for each inch of diameter. Then puncture holes in the ground about 18 inches apart in a circle determined by the drip of the outside leaves. Place the fertilizer in these circles.

The holes should be two inches in diameter and 18 inches deep and should be filled half full with the plant food.

The same procedure applies for using commercial fertilizer on shrubs.

Why Feed This Way

Plants obtain their food from two sources, air and soil, and through two sets of organs, leaves and roots. Food constituents taken from the air and soil are conveyed to the plant through the cells.

The plant food constituents contained in the soil water enter through the roots. And here is the reason why fertilizers must not be applied directly on the plants:

Plants can use these elements only in the form of solution because no solid particles are able to pass through the thin walls of plant cells. The soil water dissolves some of the plant food material with which it comes in contact and this nutrient solution passes into the roots through root hairs, the slender white hair-like branches found on all roots.

Urges Changes in Trade Agreement

WASHINGTON, March 27.—(AP)—Sen. Lewis B. Schwellenbach of Washington called on the state department this week to aid American apple and pear producers by stopping French speculation with import permits.

The senator said apple exports to France the last six months of 1936 dropped 77 per cent under the same period in 1935, largely because of the French system of issuing permits to importers. He said figures on pears for the period had not shown a marked decline but that it is his belief "this is due to the smaller available world supply last year."

"It is my understanding the French government issues only 45 per cent of their permits to regular importers," he said. "The remaining 55 per cent are issued in small lots to so-called national groups such as retailers, who are unable to do the importing."

Schwellenbach appealed for a modification of the existing reciprocal trade agreement with France to eliminate this practice.

Irrigation Meet Slated, Corvallis

CORVALLIS, Ore., March 20.—(AP)—The national institute of irrigation and agriculture will seek to solve problems of irrigation farmers through the aid of technicians at its sixth annual conference March 30 to April 1, Chairman L. E. Fruedenthal said. Fruedenthal is president of the New Mexico Farm Bureau.

Water supply, power and soil problems will be discussed.

The institute has aided in obtaining \$3,000,000 in RFC funds

Oregon Winners Fill 4-H "Leaves"



When Clayton Fox of Imbler, (lower right) won the national Moses trophy for 1936, Oregon "filled the leaves" of the traditional 4-H emblem with national winners. Only one other state has equaled this record. The annual report of the club department of the OSC extension service just issued shows that attention is not centered on a few winners, however, but extends to a larger percentage of club membership compared with population than is found in many other states. Other winners shown above are (top) Edgar Grimes, Harrisburg, 1928; and Lois Bailey, Eugene, 1929, and (bottom) Alex Cruickshank, McMinnville, 1927.

to retire indebtedness and refinance loans of districts in Oregon, Dr. W. L. Powers, secretary of the Oregon reclamation congress, said.

Flower Loss Not Necessary

Impatience at Appearance Is Responsible For Some Failure

Failure with annual flower seed is likely to be due in most cases to one or two causes—the time they take to germinate and the thinness of the seedling plants.

Annals which germinate quickly, such as zinnias, which come up in a few days, are easy for most garden makers. But larkspurs take 15 days; petunias, 20; sweet peas, 15, and in general there is a great variation in the time it takes flower seeds to start growing, with many varieties taking much longer than the beginner is likely to expect.

Consequently many a sowing is given up for lost before the seed has had time to grow, and when the seedlings do come they are not discovered.

Tiny flower seedlings are cast across the bed. They are subject to other hazards, which will usually destroy them unless the gardener has discovered and is taking care of them. A beginner is well advised if he sows his flowers in a seed bed, in rows which can be marked. The bed should be surrounded by a wooden curb two inches high, which will keep rain from washing over it.

When the seedlings appear they will be recognized because they are in the row, and can be identified from the label. The gardener can become familiar with the appearance of the different flowers in the seedling stage. He will then be equipped to sow them broadcast in the border another year with the assurance of being able to tell flower seedlings from weeds.

Perennial flower seeds should always be sown in a seed bed. They should be transplanted as soon as they have formed their true leaves and planted in rows to grow through the season before being placed in the border.

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